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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Leaders Agree To Attend Emergency Summit

Saudi Arabia, Syria, Algeria

NC0808144690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—His Majesty Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz telephoned President Husni Mubarak immediately after the latter ended his statement to Egyptian and world journalists and correspondents. King Fahd told President Mubarak of his agreement to attend the summit which President Mubarak called for in his statement. The custodian of the two holy mosques expressed admiration for all that President Mubarak said and for the frankness of his statement.

Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad also contacted President Mubarak and told him of his agreement to hold the Arab summit in Cairo.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid was also in touch with President Mubarak and informed him of his agreement to the holding of this summit and of his intention to attend it.

King Fahd contacted President Mubarak two minutes after the latter had ended his statement and as soon as he had returned to his office after leaving the hall where the international press conference was held.

Yemen, Libya, Djibouti

NC0808163890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1626 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih telephoned President Husni Mubarak tonight and informed him of his agreement to attend the emergency Arab summit.

Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi also telephoned President Mubarak and told him of his agreement to attend the summit.

Egypt has also received Djibouti's agreement to the holding of the emergency summit.

Qatar, UAE

NC0808174690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1718 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, tonight. Shaykh Khalifah confirmed that he agrees to the convening of the special Arab summit in Cairo which President Mubarak called for today on containing the transient crisis in the Gulf.

In the meantime, President Mubarak tonight telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Algerian President Chadli Benjedid, and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

[Cairo MENA in English at 1620 GMT on 8 August reports: "President Husni Mubarak today received a telephone call from Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Zayid informed President Mubarak of his approval for holding the emergency Arab summit in Cairo, and expressed his readiness to attend the summit."]

Oman

NC0808181090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1734 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Muscat, 8 Aug (MENA)—The Sultanate of Oman today announced its support for and readiness to attend the emergency Arab summit conference which President Husni Mubarak has called for. This was contained in a statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry today.

The statement declared, according to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, that Oman's support for the summit is based on its appreciation of the importance of unifying Arab action and finding a common stand to discuss the developments resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi, Al-Huss

NC0808191490 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Lebanon officially announced tonight that it will attend the Arab summit conference in Cairo. After a meeting at the temporary presidential headquarters this evening, attended by President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss, and Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul, a presidential source said that President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Huss will represent Lebanon at the summit.

Morocco

LD0808211290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Diplomatic Arab sources in Cairo have confirmed that Morocco has consented to attend the extraordinary summit conference called for by the Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and a number of Arab leaders to discuss the explosive situation in the Gulf region resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. A MAP correspondent asked his majesty's ambassador in Cairo, Muhammad Tazi, whether Morocco will be attending the extraordinary summit. He replied: Morocco, which respects the sovereignty of every Arab League member, will not hesitate to attend any Arab summit aimed at the defense of legitimacy and respect

and preservation of the Arab League charter, which is based on the principle of solidarity among member countries.

Kuwait Delegation

NC0908090890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, will lead his country's delegation to the urgent Arab summit that will convene in Cairo later today.

A statement by the Kuwait Embassy in Cairo said that the Kuwaiti delegation to the summit will include Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Dari 'Uthman, minister of justice and legal affairs; Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; and a number of senior officials in the amiri court, the cabinet, and the Foreign Ministry.

Al-Qadhdhafi Announces Emergency Arab Summit

LD0808165990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1636 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tripoli, 8 August (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made the following statement to JANA:

The contacts I made with the Arab heads of states last night and this morning have led to their agreement to hold an emergency summit conference in Egypt tomorrow.

The leader added: I wish to express my utmost gratitude to the Arab brothers who have responded to my urgent appeal to them for holding an Arab summit conference immediately.

Begins 9 Aug

NC0808175390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im, President Husni Mubarak's press secretary, has stated that the Arab summit which President Mubarak has called for will be held in Cairo at 1900 tomorrow.

Arab Leaders Arrive in Cairo for Emergency Summit

Kuwait Heir Apparent

NC0808190690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1839 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister, at the Presidential Office tonight.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs; and a number of aides to the Kuwaiti heir apparent accompanied the prime minister. The Kuwaiti heir apparent arrived in Cairo from Alexandria tonight aboard a private plane, accompanied by a number of important Kuwaiti figures.

A responsible source has said that His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah told President Mubarak that Kuwait welcomes the convocation of the extraordinary Arab summit in Cairo on containing the crisis.

Gives News Conference

NC0808195690 Cairo MENA in English 1936 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, August 8 (MENA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sal'im al-Sabah, Kuwaiti crown prince and premier, voiced his country's appreciation for Egypt's Arab nationalist stances.

This came at a press conference here tonight at which he pointed out his talks with President Husni Mubarak on the dimensions of the Iraqi [invasion] and steps that should be taken by Arab and international organizations to force the Iraqi forces to withdraw from all Kuwaiti territories in addition to the return of the legitimate government to Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti crown prince told the Kuwaiti community he has agreed with the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo to study their expenses in Egypt.

On the provisional Kuwaiti government, Shaykh Sa'd said it is a puppet one and that the Kuwaiti people reject it as it was formed under pressure and threat. He further described this government as a void government, saying there is no other government except his legitimate government and that there is no other amir except the amir of Kuwait, the head of this government.

Al-Qadhdhafi Arrives

NC0808210890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2054 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] We have just received the following report: Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan Revolution, arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the special Arab summit which will be held at the conferences center in Nasr City tomorrow evening to defuse the explosive situation in the Gulf.

President Husni Mubarak welcomed Col. al-Qadhdhafi on his arrival at Cairo International Airport.

Comments on Role

LD0908100990 Tripoli JANA in English 0820 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Hanibal [August] 9, Arab Maghreb Union Pool/JANA—The leader of the revolution arrived earlier yesterday in Cairo to attend the emergency Arab summit meeting starting today there.

Commenting to JANA, the leader of the revolution said: "The contacts I made last night and this morning with the Arab heads of state resulted in their agreeing to hold this emergency summit meeting." [passage omitted]

The leader of the revolution was accompanied on this trip by Col. M. al-Kharrubi and the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation [al-Talhi].

Lebanon's Al-Hirawi

NC0908060390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Cairo tonight to attend the special Arab summit which will convene in Cairo tomorrow to discuss the volatile situation in the Gulf area and ways of ending the crisis there.

President Husni Mubarak welcomed President al-Hirawi on his arrival. [passage omitted]

Qatari Amir

NC0908101790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn Hamad Al Thani and his accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the emergency Arab summit. The summit was called for by President Husni Mubarak yesterday in his statement to the Arab nation with a view to containing the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis that erupted last week following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Qatari amir was received by President Husni Mubarak.

Egypt Sends Memo to Arab League on Summit

NC0808212890 Cairo MENA in English 2114 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, Aug 8 (MENA)—Egypt's delegate to the Arab League in Tunis, 'Ali Mahir, briefed today the Egyptian Foreign Ministry that he had conveyed today an official memo to Arab League Secretary-General Chedli Klibi. The memo includes the call to the convocation of an urgent Arab summit conference in Cairo, an official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said.

President Husni Mubarak had called upon today for convening the summit within twenty-four hours to consider the volatile situation in the Gulf area. The Egyptian memo was submitted upon Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's urgent instructions, the source added.

Arab League Leader, Libyan Envoy View Situation

LD0808170890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 August, JANA—The Arab League secretary general has received the Great Jamahiriyah's general representative in Tunisia, 'Abd-al-'Atti al-'Ubaydi. The current Arab situation and the imminent dangers threatening the Arab nation in general and the Arabian Gulf region in particular, since the intensification of the U.S. and Western presence in that region, were discussed at the meeting.

Kuwait Envoy Protests Distribution of Resolution

NC0808182490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1752 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Aug (MENA)—The Kuwaiti Embassy in Tunis today submitted an official protest to the Arab League secretariat general for its failure so far to distribute the Arab League Council's resolution condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This was stated by an official Kuwaiti source at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tunis. The source added that the Kuwaiti ambassador, who also serves as Kuwait's permanent representative at the Arab League, expressed Kuwait's astonishment and protest at the fact that the resolution has so far not been distributed to the member states.

Islamic Affairs

Ghazali Addresses Islamic Conference Ministers

LD0708105990 Algiers APS in English 1013 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 7 August (APS)—Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali invited the organization of Islamic Conference [Organization] (OIC) to work through Islamic fraternity to ease tension between Islamic nations and to encourage dialogue. Addressing the 19th ministerial conference of OIC Ghazali appealed on the organisation to contribute of setting up good neighbouring relations among its members.

Dealing with the Palestinian question—core of the Arab Israeli conflict, he reaffirmed Algeria's support to the Intifadah which in three years has offered big chances for peace in the region. After recalling that PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, the head of the Algerian diplomacy underlined that PLO (?with its) many initiatives for peace has showed its attachment to peace.

Ghazali condemned decisions of legislative organs stating al-Quds as capital of Israel, indicating that this constitutes a blatant violation of international rules. He regarded these developments and the U.S. decision to suspend dialogue with PLO as sanctions to peace efforts undertaken (?by) Palestine.

When dealing with the economic international situation the foreign minister called on Arab and African countries to further their cooperation." He said Algeria works for the development of Arab-African joint actions, indicating that the ministerial follow up committee will meet in Algiers.

As for the Union of Arab Maghreb (UMA) Ghazali said it made big steps towards the realisation of economic complementarity. Algeria which is the acting chairman of the union will make its utmost to consolidate achievements reached so far.

Palestinian Affairs

PLF To Repel Foreign Troops in 'Arab Lands'

JN0808194390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Beirut, 8 Aug (INA)—The Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] has said that all U.S. and imperialist interests in the Arab homeland will be targets for its combatants and revolutionaries. In a warning statement distributed here today, the PLF added: We, in performance of our national and pan-Arab role, declare to our Palestinian people and nation that we will strike at U.S. and colonial interests once a foreign soldier sets foot in Arab lands.

The PLF went on to say: The United States and its allies and agents must realize that the era of enslavement and colonialism has become a thing of the past. The PLF urged all militant, revolutionary, progressive, and liberation forces in the Arab homeland and the world to perform their militant, pan-Arab, and progressive roles in confronting the invading U.S. aggressors and in liquidating their monopoly interests and their dens of espionage and treason.

The PLF said that the moves being made by U.S. imperialism and Zionism, its ally, aim to strike at the bright spots in the Arab arena, particularly at fraternal Iraq and the valiant intifadah being staged by our Palestinian Arab people.

'Abd-Rabbuh Warns Against Foreign Intervention

NC0808151190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Aug (MENA)—In the first Palestinian reaction to events in the Gulf region, PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said that foreign intervention in the crisis will divide Arab ranks, prolong the crisis, and turn it into a tool for restoring and intensifying the foreign presence in the region.

In a statement published here today, the Palestinian official warned against falling into a U.S.-Israeli trap that seeks to seize the opportunity to deal a blow to the Arab military capability, seize the oil resources, and subjugate the region and its peoples. He stressed the need for finding a quick and immediate Arab solution for the crisis which would prevent it from spilling over.

Commentary Says U.S. Escalates Mideast Crisis

LD0808210690 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Security Council resolution imposing economic sanctions on Iraq, the continuing dispatch of warships and naval vessels to the Arabian Gulf by the Western powers, and the repeated suggestion of the possibility of striking vital Iraqi installations, plus other measures that are in the minds of the U.S. administration are pushing the Middle East area with astonishing speed toward an abyss.

Arab diplomacy and the efforts of the PLO, Jordan, and Yemen, and the intensive meetings held in the Arab arena are all aimed at containing the crisis and defusing the situation.

Why does the U.S. administration insist on not allowing Arab diplomacy the chance of extracting the area from the field of eruption and why is the world not bolstering Arab diplomatic efforts if they are truly concerned about the security, safety, and stability of the area?

No matter how varied, the military and economic options should be the last resort after exhausting diplomatic and political options. It appears that Washington decided to opt for escalation and tension in an area that cannot endure more than it is enduring at present.

The United States and the industrialized states in the world, including Switzerland and Turkey, have announced they are imposing economic sanctions on Iraq. What are these countries trying to achieve? Do they really believe that they can impose what they want on the area and on its nations without studying the dimensions and possibilities of what might happen?

All these external actions and measures have led to a weakening of the Arab diplomatic efforts without putting forward a realistic alternative that leads to a way out of the crisis. The mere wave of the external military option increases the possibilities of lighting the fuse for the explosion. The Western powers have become accustomed to dealing politically and economically with Arab regimes that can do nothing. If those states decided to deal with Arab states on the basis of mutual respect, things would not have reached the situation they are in now.

Neutral Switzerland, which has never in its whole history imposed sanctions on any state despite the woes the world witnessed as a result of World War II, for example, has imposed economic sanctions on Iraq.

If this points to anything, it points to the world holding the Arab political system in particular and the Arab nations in general in contempt. Instead of hastening to

adopt resolutions and measures that contribute to escalating the crisis, the world should do all it can to support the good Arab diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis the area is experiencing.

Radio Urges Confrontation of U.S. 'Aggression'

JN0908095390 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1834 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Political editor's commentary: "What is Required Is To Expel, Not Welcome, the U.S. Aggression"]

[Text] The U.S. military intervention in the Arabian Gulf at one of the most critical phases in the Arab national struggle demonstrates, in a very clear and indisputable way, that the United States of America no longer needs masks to cover the real nature of its flagrant hostility to the Arab nation and its national aspirations. Experience has confirmed that the United States is the major ally and partner to the Zionist enemy and it did not hesitate to provide all means of support and survival to the racist enemy and its terrorist acts against the Palestinian people and the entire Arab nation.

The United States has now shown its teeth and sent its fleets to Arab coasts in the Gulf after it had finished the first stage of preparations and contacts to create an Arab front to fight Arabs, not for any other reason but to act as though it was interested in the Arabs' security and their national interests.

In its logic, it believes it is the party that best understands how to defend Arab interests, and has offered so much in this regard. It has supplied the Zionist enemy with every advanced weapon to continue its aggressions against the Arab nation and has armed its troops with every means of destruction and murder to be used against the Palestinian people and their revolution and valiant intifadah and to make it crimes the lead news items in all Arab and foreign media.

The United States has even done everything possible to defame the image of the pan-Arab struggle, represented by its Palestinian vanguards and the pioneers of its intifadah and revolution, because it considers its first duty is to strike at Arab rights, especially the Palestinian people's right to establish their state and liberate their homeland.

However, it seems that the United States has finally become convinced that its agents in the region are no longer competent to fulfill their task, and decided to dispatch its troops to foil, before anything else, the justifications of those who had the illusion that the United States can be a sincere friend to the Arabs and is concerned about achieving the real peace in the region.

If this was the U.S. approach in dealing with Arab issues and Arab vital interests, we can only say that the United States has been consistent in its hostility to the Arab nation and its aspirations of liberation, independence, and progress. However, it is regrettable to see this frenzied campaign, not from the United States and its European allies and the Zionist enemy, but from certain Arabs who are tolling the bells to welcome the U.S. invasion of the Arab region instead of beating the drums of war to deter it and reject its hegemony, as if the Arab region's current situation is not to one of finding the means to settle an Arab dispute, but one where gaps be opened to allow the U.S. aggression to have the final word in internal Arab issues.

Logic and international norms say that the Arab nation has the right to settle its internal problems without external intervention, regardless of the flag it hoists or the justifications and the claims in which it covers itself.

The immediate task that the Arab nation—peoples and leaders—must shoulder is to denounce this flagrant U.S. aggression against the Arab land, and raise the level of caution and preparedness, reaching to confrontation and deterring the aggressors. The state of confusion that the Arab region has seen due to external interventions and the constant U.S.-Zionist aggression must end once and for all. The guideline for action must be confrontation of any external intervention, especially since the U.S.-Zionist enemy has began to realize that the policy of hypocrisy and procrastination that it has pursued in the region for a number of years can no longer be marketed, and Arabs must decide and choose between the logic of defeat and shame and the logic of pride and triumph. Hesitation cannot be allowed, because the road to triumph and pride is always a one-way road covered by the sun of glory, freedom, and honor.

Commentary Assails Arabs for Taking U.S. Side

JN0808123290 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1837 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Commentary by the radio political editor: "Why is this Disgraceful Taking-Sides?"]

[Text] During the past 32 months, a great event has been taking place in the Middle East, in the occupied Palestinian territory in particular. This event is the popular Palestinian intifadah. The world knows well that the intifadah is a bid by defenseless people for their freedom and independence; they are confronting a hideous racist occupation force that is equipped with various weapons of repression, killing, and annihilation.

The world saw, and is still witnessing, children and youths confronting the tanks of the occupation invaders with stones, slogans, and the national flag in expression of their need and objective of independence and to live a free and honorable life in their homeland.

The entire world saw, and is still witnessing, how the fascist occupants are continuing the acts of killing, repression, and terrorism with live ammunition, rubber and plastic bullets, incendiary, toxic, and poisonous gas against the defenseless Palestinian citizens. The objective is to force them to retreat and to strangle their lofty human aspirations, in fact, to torpedo their simplest national and human rights.

Despite the fact that the world has fully understood the legitimate Palestinian demands and objectives; and despite the extent of sympathy and support among world public opinion for the Palestinian people and their courageous intifadah, what has the world, states or governments, achieved for the Palestinian people? What have they given to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people in confronting the occupation army and its cowardly oppression of the defenseless citizens?

Has the United States not stood at the Security Council—more than once—against any resolution that condemns the occupation and its brutal crimes and calls for ensuring international protection for the defenseless Palestinian people? In fact, the United States went beyond this; it supported the crimes of the Zionist occupation with all forms of material, military, political, support. The U.S. Administration continued and is still continuing to cover the crimes of the occupation and its violent bloody policy and is not concerned about the most basic norms, values, and laws that guarantee human rights and call for respecting these rights.

In addition to this, the U.S. Administration worked and is still working in various political and diplomatic arenas to stifle the Palestinian intifadah, its demands, and just objectives and to stifle the PLO. It is working to bypass and cancel the PLO from the equation, map, and ground of the conflict. Because of this American policy and its stands, the world—states, governments, and peoples—gathered together in support and sympathy for the Palestinian intifadah. So far, the world has not been able to take effective deterrent measures against the Zionist occupation and its ugly brutal crimes against the Palestinian people.

On the Arab side, we, regrettably, can say a lot. Defenseless children, youths, and old men have been confronting the occupation's bullets and toxic gas bombs for 33 months without invoking in most of the Arabs the sense of responsibility and a feeling of blood relation and common goal and destiny. Those Arabs have chosen only one way to support the Palestinian intifadah; namely, denouncement and condemnation. Recently, this took the form of an attempt to spare the blame, and enough is God for the believers in their fight [part of Koranic verse].

Some may ask why we are saying all this now. Although the meanings and intentions can clearly be read between the lines and in the bitterness of these facts, we say that the reason lies in what we hear and see today of unjust mobilization against fraternal Iraq. We ask the Arabs before anybody else—those Arabs who have agreed to join the hostile U.S. campaign against fraternal Arab Iraq: Why do you take the side of the nation's enemies? This allows these enemies to interfere in our internal affairs and creates the atmosphere for them to step up their aggression against our nation, undermine the aspirations of our masses, and, moreover, confiscate our masses' dream of a bright, free, dear, dignified, and flourished future.

O those Arabs, it is enough of this disgraceful taking-sides. There must be a frank, comprehensive revision with a view to blocking the enemies of the nation and their wicked designs. The situation is extremely serious, and we must solve our problems inside our home and within our legitimate institutions.

O those Arabs, you should not repeat what the United States says so as not to allow it to invade our Arab land on the back of your words and positions, and perhaps on the back of the tanks of some of you, as it tries and desires to do.

And we say to the Security Council: Where were you when Israel invaded Lebanon, and, before that, when Israel occupied the rest of Palestine and much of the Arab territories? Where were you when the United States invaded Panama, Grenada, and, before that, Korea and Vietnam? And where are you now, as the Israeli occupation forces continue the most horrible crimes of murder against defenseless Palestinians, and violate, in the most ugly manner, the most fundamental principles of human rights? Where were you? And where are you now?

OPEC Affairs

Bouzeza on Oil Production, Supply Disruption

LD0903102590 Algiers APS in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Algiers, 9 Aug (APS)—Sa'dah Bouzeza, minister of energy and mines, and current OPEC chairman, made a statement yesterday on the oil circles' reactions regarding the developments in the Gulf. Here is the text of the statement:

We are following with great concern the reactions of oil circles to the events that have been taking place in the Gulf since 2 August. After taking note of the various opinions expressed so far by most authoritative officials and analysts, it seems that on the basis of all reliable information and the level of world land and sea reserves, and also because the production ceiling endorsed by OPEC at its last meeting in Geneva is higher than the demand for OPEC oil for the last third (of this year), the fears expressed regarding the possibility of interruption of supplies in the short term are the result of psychological and speculative factors rather than basic market factors.

After widespread consultations, agreement was reached on monitoring the development of events in order to gauge all the results which could be reflected on international oil supplies, on the revenues of the member countries, and on the basic interests of producers and consumers equally, and in order to take all the necessary measures.

All the ministers of the member-countries of the organization who were consulted consider that all individual initiatives, even ones with limited impact, should be avoided in order to preserve the unity of OPEC and avoid obstructing its ability to collectively perform its

part, especially in view of its role as an important factor in the stability of the market.

While affirming the responsibility of OPEC within the confines of its prerogative, I take this opportunity to remind that the stability of supply in the international oil market is the collective responsibility of all the oil-producing countries and the international oil industry, as well as the governments of the consumer countries and the international energy agencies [words indistinct]

Algeria

Ghazali Calls for Arab Summit; Opposes Sanctions

LD0808144190 Algiers APS in English 1328 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Algiers, 8 August (APS)—Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali launched today a pressing call for an Arab summit conference to seek an Arab solution to the conflict opposing Iraq to Kuwait.

Speaking after the news cast on the radio he underlined that chances of settling this crisis weaken more and more with time. He said the holding of such a conference becomes urgent in order to come out with a pure Arab solution serving interests of Arab nations. Ghazali rejected the recourse to sanctions aimed at weakening an Arab state.

Ghazali Opposes Foreign Intervention

LD0808163790 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Interview with Algerian Foreign Minister Ghazali by unidentified reporter in Algiers on 8 August—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Reporter] In the face of the fast moving events and the serious nature of the situation, Network 3 asked our foreign minister, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, to come to the studio to reply live to some of the questions you and I wanted to ask him. Good day, Mr. Ghazali.

[Ghazali] Good day.

[Reporter] Thank you for coming to take part live in this program. [passage omitted] First question, Foreign Minister, what do you think about the arrival of U.S. troops in an Arab country?

[Ghazali] Well, this is the worst thing we were fearing. Remember the stance taken immediately after the Iraqi military intervention in Kuwait on Thursday [2 August] morning. Algeria's official position was not to take one side or the other, as they are two brother countries. Iraq is a brother country that is very dear to us. Kuwait is a brother country that is very dear to us. It was not a question, and still is not, of taking one side or the other. There are problems. It is a matter of asking the question: Is what is happening at the moment good for the Arabs?

What we said in the official communique, which remains our position and remains the sole expression of our position, Algeria's position, is that the most catastrophic possibility in the Gulf crisis is foreign intervention.

[Announces] Do you think that conditions now are resulting in this catastrophic situation?

[Ghazali] The massive movement of troops by the United States to Saudi Arabia seems to be taking place on the call of an Arab country. [Words indistinct] the Arab countries all together [words indistinct] and of course they have disapproved of the process, but they have all warned, after Algeria, warned against any foreign intervention. [Words indistinct] convinced that they are, and we are convinced that the solution of this crisis can only be good for the Arabs if it takes place in the context of an Arab solution. Any foreign intervention [words indistinct] would lead to the most catastrophic solution for the Arab world.

[Reporter] Yes, and on the subject of an Arab solution. What do you think about the famous Libyan-Palestinian-Yemeni plan, which is reported to be underway at the moment: a dispatch from JANA announced the day before yesterday that its implementation had already begun?

[Ghazali] Nobody knows the Palestine-Libya plan, as the contents have not been revealed to the Arab community, but what we have been working on from the outset is to create conditions to bring the Arabs together. It is for this reason that today Algeria is making an urgent appeal for an Arab summit to be held urgently to try, if it is not too late, to obtain a solution solely within the Arab community, which is the only solution in conformity with the interests of the Arab peoples.

[Reporter] So this is a very important appeal, from an official representative of Algeria. But how do you see the timescale—tomorrow, the day after tomorrow?

[Ghazali] Urgently. We have already wasted four days. Algeria does not sit around waiting. It has [words indistinct] to take a stance. You have followed President Chadli's many demarches. He has had talks with his peers, whom he has received, he has taken initiatives himself. Only since yesterday there have been four telephone conversations—with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, with Husni Mubarak, with Hafiz al-Asad, with Fahd—and the aim of all these demarches by Algeria is to make people aware of the extreme urgency of holding a summit conference, so that the Arabs can solve this problem among themselves.

It is very grave, the consequences of this problem are very grave. The Security Council is not just the Westerners, it is the Security Council [as heard], that is, representing the whole of the international community, which has decided on economic sanctions. Economic sanctions against Iraq mean the weakening, the wiping out of Iraq, and Algeria rejects this, just as we reject invasion, the process of invasion, the process of military intervention to solve differences between neighboring countries—brother and neighboring countries. We reject just as strongly any action which contributes to weakening the Iraqi people. And international economic sanctions will get the Iraqi people on their knees and we reject this just as strongly.

[Reporter] Before returning to this matter of economic problems, questions which, of course, are very important, I should like to ask a quick question on the appeal you have just made. Do you want the Arab summit to be held in a particular Arab country?

[Ghazali] It can be held anywhere, in any Arab country. The main thing is that the heads of state of the Arab countries meet urgently—I repeat, because time is not on our side. The more time passes, the more the chances of an Arab solution disappear. But you see, I hope for it, we hope for it, since it seems that the movement of U.S. troops does not have any offensive aim. But the more time passes, the more the chances of an Arab solution...

[Reporter, interrupting] Do you have an assurance of this?

[Ghazali] That's the official statement, that's the White House communique and the communique of U.S. officials at the highest level. They are coming on the request of an Arab state.

[Reporter] What do you think will be Baghdad's reaction to the arrival of U.S. troops in Saudi Arabia?

[Ghazali] Well, Baghdad's reaction will, of necessity, be to defend itself [words indistinct] defend itself. But allow me to say that Algeria, which has rejected the principle of military intervention [words indistinct] will not be able to take a stance against Iraq because we consider that this is not the best solution for the Arab world. But we shall see, we shall see. I hope that we will not see the result of military intervention. I hope that in the meantime an Arab solution will emerge.

But let me say that this unanimity of the international community [words indistinct] which is so strong against an Arab country—we would have liked to see it as strong against these Arab countries which are invaded by non-Arab countries. Since 1967 Israel has not stopped gnawing at land, turning out Palestinians, and doing it every day, invading Lebanon every day—they are in Lebanon, they are in the occupied territories.

Why was there not the fervent unanimity of this case that we note when it is a matter of sanctioning an Arab country? The military intervention has given a golden opportunity to the enemies of Iraq, the enemies of the Arabs, to justify action to weaken the Arab world through one of its most important members.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, dispatches, one in particular this morning, said that Mr. Saddam Husayn was going to make a very important statement this afternoon. What new element do you think this statement will bring?

[Ghazali] I do not know. I am not a member of the Iraqi Government, and what people are saying—they are talking about a merger between Iraq and Kuwait. [words indistinct] one of the aims of the operation was the aim of annexation. But let's wait and see what the statement says. This is a problem between two Arab countries. There is a disagreement; there are problems in the economic sphere, in the sphere of oil, of borders, the use of [words indistinct] and so on. But what is of greatest concern to us is allowing a situation to get worse that might turn against the Arab world, against Iraq, and against the whole [words indistinct]. This is the object; this is what must be our first concern. We are totally convinced that an Arab solution can save [passage indistinct].

It is vital that the Arabs get together, outside of telephone contacts and so forth. [words indistinct], whence Algeria's appeal, which I repeat, the appeal from Algeria for the Arabs to meet urgently on a decision-making level [niveau decideur] in order to wipe out this process that seems to be leading to a mobilization of armies, a mobilization of economic powers against an Arab country, which is something we wish to avoid at all costs.

[Reporter] Mr. Ghazali, a Soviet leader, whose precise name I do not have, has been quoted as making a statement to a news agency in which he said the U.S. intervention, in particular its presence in Saudi Arabia might, instead of weakening the Iraqi position and disssuading Iraq from continuing with its presumed designs as it is hoped, on the contrary will make the Arab world more or less unanimous in defending the main Arab interests. Do you think this is possible?

[Ghazali] No, there is no Arab unanimity against Iraq.

[Reporter, interrupting] Arab public opinion.

[Ghazali] We must get out of this trap of saying against Iraq or against Kuwait, for Iraq or for Kuwait. Arab unanimity is against the use of force in border disagreements. But there has never been Arab unanimity against the interests of the Iraqis or against interests of the Kuwaitis. And this mobilization of the international community, the Western powers, the economic powers, and the military powers, if this should be against the interests of Iraq, it would be just as unacceptable to the Arabs.

So, what the Soviets say is formulated in a way that does not correspond to the reality of the problem. There has never been unanimity among the Arabs against Iraq or Kuwait. There was a majority of Arabs against the process of military intervention. On the subject of interests, Iraqi interests are Arab interests, Kuwaiti interests are Arab interests, and everything that aims to wipe out or weaken these interests affects all Arab countries equally.

[Reporter] On the subject of the Arab interests, tens, even hundreds of billions of Kuwaiti and Iraqi dollars, particularly Kuwaiti ones, are said to be in Western banks, whether in Japan, the United States, Europe, almost all the European countries that count—in Federal Germany, France, England and so forth. Don't you think that—to pick up to some extent what you said—this is the hold-up of the century. Because, after all...

[Ghazali, interrupting] I did not say this, I have never given any interviews, although I know there was something in LE NOUVEL HEBDO. Two hundred billion Kuwait (?dollars) have been frozen. And I wonder if there are not some powers that are trying to take advantage of the opportunity to misappropriate 200 billion that belongs to the Arabs.

[Reporter] Which, for example?

[Ghazali] Those that control the international banking system.

[Reporter] The Americans, do you think?

[Ghazali] Those that control the international banking system.

[Reporter] Do you mean the Zionists?

[Ghazali] I think that it is something to do with them, you know this perfectly well, in the information system [words indistinct] as well as the international banking system. [passage indistinct] The 200 billion or 150 or 200 or 250 billion that belong to the Kuwaiti Government and that are abroad, the speed with which they were frozen—we shall see how long they stay frozen—but all that I would note is that the result of the operation is that there are 200 billion that have been annexed in a way, if I may say that, through being frozen. And 200 billion—that's quite a bit.

[Reporter] What do you think that Israel thinks of all this and what is it preparing because there has been some (?maneuvering) recently; it has been making a lot of threats.

[Ghazali] One could easily think that, with regard to Israel, everything that divides the Arabs, everything that weakens the Arabs, pleases it. Among the first official reactions to the military intervention there was Israel, which declared that this proves that in fact the danger in the region does not come from Israel, but from others, from Arab countries, and that—I quote—the Palestinian question is in fact a question of the second order. So Israel will seek to use any situation to turn things to its favor. And in this situation one can easily imagine Israel trying to exploit the crisis that is developing at the moment in the Gulf to turn a blind eye [scotomiser] to the Palestinian question and continue to achieve its increasing expansionist project for annexing Arab territories and persecuting Palestinians, calmly and with the complicity of the international community. This was to be expected [words indistinct]. It's not necessary to be an expert in politics and diplomacy to expect that everything that objectively divides the Arabs can only please the Israelis and push them to exploit to the maximum situations of weakness in their own favor.

[Reporter] We have talked about the Western countries, but we have talked a lot about the United States, and not enough, in my view, about the Europeans, in particular the Europeans of the EEC—France, England, which are part of the Security Council, and the English and the French have dispatched troops to the Gulf region. What do you think of their position?

[Ghazali] Well, what do I think? They are applying a UN resolution. Clause 7 of the UN Charter. The Security Council has voted. I would point out to you that out of the 15 members, 13 voted for and Cuba and Yemen abstained. So there was not a single vote against international economic sanctions. And so the Europeans are saying: We are applying the decisions of the UNO. All we would note with hindsight is that we would have liked, in similar situations—and there have been some, Israel gives daily examples of these situations—there to be the same unanimity, the same resolution, when it's a question of Arab lands or Arab interests being infringed by the Zionist power.

[Reporter] I cannot end this interview with you, minister, without, of course, talking about the major question of the moment connected with the Gulf, that of oil. We know that oil is priced at around $28 or $29 at the moment on the spot markets; what do you think? Do you think this tendency will last?

[Ghazali] It's a tendency that is even likely to be accentuated. If there is a hotbed in the Gulf region, oil prices will rise further. But beware! We continue to suffer a great deal from the low oil prices. When it's a question of knowing if what is happening at the moment is good or bad for the Arabs and for the Algerians, we must take care not to look only through the wrong end of the telescope. Of course, what interests us is the price of oil, because it influences our life, our development, and so forth. But that's not all, that's not all. The future of the Arab world is more important than oil. So, unfortunately, when it's a question of counting the breakages, we will have to look at things in a much more global way, which goes beyond just the price of oil.

[Reporter] Thank you very much, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghazali, our foreign minister.

Egypt

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives 8 Aug

NC0808133190 Cairo MENA in English 1226 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived here this afternoon.

Dr. Ahmad Salamah, minister of People's Assembly and Consultative Council Affairs, and by the Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr [name as received] welcomed him at the airport.

Received by Mubarak

NC0808150790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 8 AUG 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the presidential office this afternoon.

Departs Following Visit

NC0808180490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1733 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this afternoon following a brief visit to Egypt during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The Saudi foreign minister was seen off at the airport by Dr. Ahmad Salamah, minister for People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, and Saudi Ambassador in Cairo As'ad Abu-al-Nasr.

Ghali Says Compromise Needed in Gulf Crisis

LD0808145190 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] For Butrus Ghali, the Egyptian minister of [state for] foreign affairs, and the main working colleague of President Husni Mubarak, there is only one solution—a compromise:

[Begin Ghali recording] One has to avoid a polarization of the Arab world into two camps; it is not a question of having a precise policy that is empty of ways of finding a comprehensive and permament solution to the conflict. We think that through dialogue, through negotiation, a compromise will be found, which is perhaps not going to satisfy everybody, but certainly a compromise that in itself is going to satisfy peace in the region. Above all we need peace and security in the region. [end recording]

MENA Reports New Increase in Oil Prices

NC0808165290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1522 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—It has been decided to raise the price of Egyptian oil crude by $2 per barrel as of today. Egypt had earlier raised oil prices by $4 per barrel.

The new prices will be as follows:
Al-Zayt Gulf and Ra's al-Bihar crude, $23.30 per barrel;
Gulf of Suez crude, $23 per barrel;
Bala'im crude, $22.15 per barrel;
Badran crude, $21.00 per barrel; and
Gharib crude, $20.70 per barrel. [passage omitted]

Paper Calls for Withdrawal From ACC

NC0808171690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—Makram Muhammad Ahmad, editor of AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, writes that there is not a single sign that Arab efforts to contain the recent Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis could possibly succeed in such a way as to close any loophole that might allow foreign forces to intervene.

In his article, to be published in the magazine on Friday 10 August, the AL-MUSAWWAR editor describes what happened in the Gulf as a dark and grave catastrophe and says that the Arabs have so far been impotent in their attempt to contain it within an Arab framework.

He adds: It is inevitable that all must wait for the results of the international economic sanctions, the possibilities of foreign invasion, and the vanguards of the airborne deployment forces so that each one of us can avoid the evils perpetrated by one another. There is no more Arab security but only doubts, anxieties, fears, waiting for the protection of others, and crying on their shoulders, enabling fully armed foreign bases to return to our territories to protect us from the aggression of Arabs against Arabs.

The writer asks: After all that has happened I know of no single reason that would keep us in this quadripartite grouping (the Arab Cooperation Council) [ACC]. We had hoped for a new Arab entity that would protect the unity of Arab aim and action, build the future, present an example and model of the new Arab relations, and aim for coordination and integration so as to reach a correct model of unionist action.

He then says that what recently happened has dashed all hopes. There is no way we can avoid asking ourselves: Why should Egypt remain in this Arabic grouping?

The AL-MUSAWWAR editor goes on to say: The regrettable thing in this entire catastrophe is that sincere Arab efforts would have been enough to avoid it and that it would have been possible to reach a satisfactory solution, ensuring Iraq's interests and rights and ensuring Kuwait's right to protect its legitimacy and national soil. But matters headed toward a catastrophe because Iraq, losing patience with what it saw as Kuwaiti procrastination, opted for a course that is not approved by the times, international law, or relations of Arab solidarity, and has no international precedent except that of Nazi invasions.

The writer explains that Egypt did not hide its stand on this issue. While President Husni Mubarak was shuttling bewteen Baghdad and Kuwait just days before the invasion on a mission of mediation, it was clear that he was biased in favor of Iraq's demand that Kuwait should respect the allocations set for it by OPEC. He adds: Egypt had hoped that the two sides would reach a solution for this problem through direct negotiations and without a mediator. It would have been possible to reach a satisfactory solution ensuring the two sides' interests but anxieties, fears, past events, overt ambitions, and claims of power and hegemony contributed to the destruction of the opportunities for dialogue in favor of the military solution. He adds that Iraq made an error when it promised President Mubarak and the entire world that it would rule out military action at the time when everything was ready for the invasion. He also says that Iraq made an error when it opted for this method of seizing the lands of others by force, which we all reject. Another error made by Iraq was to squander the strenuous efforts of a decade to rebuild Arab solidarity on the bases of new Arab relations. He asserts that Iraq made an error too when it believed that Cairo would remain silent over the invasion either because of its close ties with Baghdad or because of its membership in the ACC.

Makram Muhammad Ahmad then asks: Did Iraq calculate that the whole world would rally in this manner against the invasion and that the Soviet Union and the United States would jointly issue a very strong statement

calling for Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal? He goes on: Did Iraq calculate that the world boycott would increase in its severity to include the boycotting of all imports and exports and would include an European-American agreement backed by China and the Soviet Union banning the export of weapons to Iraq? He adds: Did Iraq calculate that the invasion would justify the small Gulf states in once again hosting foreign bases and naval facilities under the pressure of their peoples, because the Gulf has lost its sense of security?

He asks if in its venture Iraq took into account the fact that the Israeli hawks would seek to liquidate the Palestinian intifadah and that the world would rejoice at the mishap of the Arabs who are living in an outmoded age, conquering each other, destroying their own economic capabilities in constant adventures, and violating the rights of the individual Arab.

The writer further asks whether Iraq took all this into account, or if its calculations were merely based on the hypothesis that the world would engage in a horrible gamble as a result of its fear of a daring and reckless reaction that could set the oil fields in both Kuwait and the Gulf ablaze.

The AL-MUSAWWAR editor in chief says that, despite the regrettable surprise, President Husni Mubarak and his aides exerted themselves in an attempt to find a reply to a single question, which is the most serious and urgent. This question is: Can this dispute be contained in the Arab framework, before the issue is expanded and developed into an open invitation to foreign forces of intervention?

He adds that President Mubarak determined the priorities in this way: First: trying to contain the events within the Arab family in order to preclude any foreign intervention; and second: stressing the Iraqi troops' withdrawal so that the two parties, Iraq and Kuwait, can sit at the negotiating table and work for the interests of their peoples through a compromise which would satisfy some Iraqi demands and safeguard Kuwaiti legitimacy.

The writer affirms that Egypt rejects the idea of the invasion in principle for several reasons. These are, first: keeping silent about the invasion means consecrating the principle of annexing other people's land by force. This is what we, Arabs, refuse in the case of the Israelis. Moreover, the invasion constitutes an aggression against a member of the Arab family, a destruction of Arab solidarity, and an open invitation to foreign intervention. Second: Cairo cannot keep silent for long to this aggression at a time when it is hosting the foreign ministers of 40 Muslim countries who are urging it to condemn the aggression. Third: There is a Kuwaiti request to hold an urgent meeting among the Arab foreign ministers who are taking part in the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Cairo. This request will necessarily gain the support of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Makram Muhammad Ahmad said the Arabs who imagine that the Iraqi approach is the right remedy to ensure a just distribution of Arab wealth are mistaken. This wealth belongs to those entitled to it in the first place, and to the Arab nation in the second, because it is a tool for making a better Arab future and bringing about a comprehensive Arab development.

He added that the Arabs who think that what had happened can be forgotton tomorrow and that reality will impose itself are also mistaken. What happened was the first chapter of an incomplete play. It was a miserable Arab tragedy which is bound to take more years of the Arab nation's life, which will be wasted in the labyrinth of the hateful world which the nation itself, more than others, is creating for itself.

Mubarak, Senior Officials Discuss Gulf Crisis

NC0808181890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak chaired a special meeting of the state's senior officials tonight. At the meeting, the current crisis in the Gulf and its possible consequences were studied and discussed.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly; Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, speaker of the Consultative Council; Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Abu-Ghazalah, assistant to the president; and Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister. The ministers of defense, finance, education, interior, information, and justice and the minister of state for cabinet affairs were also present.

The chief of staff of the Armed Forces, commanders of the main branches of the Armed Forces, and the chief of the general intelligence service also attended the meeting.

Commentary on Response to Summit Call

NC0808203690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1836 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Door of Hope is Still Open Despite the Darkness of the Night," from the "Talking Newspaper" program]

[Text] There has been an immediate response by a large number of leaders of Arab states to the call by President Mubarak for a special Arab summit to be held during the next 24 hours. We may describe the statement that President Mubarak addressed to the Arab nation through the Egyptian people as an appeal to the Arab nation's conscience to realize the dimensions of the events that have taken and are taking place before it is too late. As usual, President Mubarak was very frank, because the crisis through which the Arab nation is passing must be viewed with nothing less than honesty, regardless of how harsh the words may be. The scenario that the president presented may be summed up as follows: The events that took place between Iraq and Kuwait and their regrettable results could lead to negative consequences, frustrating the Arab will as a result of the imposition on the Arabs of a foreign military will.

Undoubtedly, the conclusion that President Mubarak drew is an accurate and objective analysis. The issue is that the crisis began because of inaccurate calculations. If we want to be precise, we will say that the crisis was calculated in the logic of the Third World states and within the limits of the capacity of the small states. Therefore, when these calculations clashed with the strategy of the great powers and the interests of others all the flaws appeared and all the shortcomings surfaced.

What intensified the crisis in the Gulf area and further complicated it on the international level is the fact that the Gulf area represents the circle of the future conflict that extends to include the Gulf and the Red Sea, with its waterways, petroleum wealth, and governmental relations and interests that are governed by traditional ties, the approach to which is considered as tantamount to approaching a minefield. What increased the harshness of the crisis is the fact that Iraq had strongly collided with certain sectors of world public opinion because of the chemical weapons crisis.

Thus, the Iraqi calculations placed the entire Arab nation in an extremely difficult position. President Mubarak's warning came to stress that adherence to and insistence on an opinion will not necessarily harm one Arab state only to the exclusion of another, but will harm all the Arab states. Undoubtedly, the harm that President Mubarak warned against is serious because there is unanimous international agreement that it is necesary to resolve the Gulf crisis in such a way as to restore respectability to legitimacy and prevent any tampering with the destiny of states. The starting point in President Mubarak's appeal is that the Arabs should themselves be in control of matters, before they lose all the threads, and assume the responsibility for the situation with the required courage before others assume it. We must fully realize that foreign military interference, if it takes place as a result of this Arab failure, will result in painful facts that will determine the fate of the Arab region for several centuries. We dread to say that the first result of such a foreign interference would be the full closing of the Arab dossier, the shattering of the Arab will into flying splinters, and the redrawing of the region's map to form a group of feeble and scattered Arab entities.

The Arab states' response to Mubarak's call to hold an immediate special summit means that the door of hope that Iraq may be persuaded that the steps it has taken are tantamount to its own suicide and that of the entire Arab nation is still open.

Paper Reports Iraqis Return Home via Jordan

JN0808220490 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 7 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] The Iraqi Government yesterday began to move its citizens out of Egypt. It was decided that three Iraqi Airways flights will take the Iraqis from Egypt to Amman. The Iraqis will then proceed by land to Baghdad. The first Iraqi plane, a Boeing 747, arrived from Amman yesterday morning with no passengers on board. The plane took off two hours later with 140 Iraqi passengers. Flights will continue until tomorrow, Wednesday. Baghdad airport has been closed since the beginning of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Iraqi Embassy in Cairo announced that the Iraqi border is open for returning Iraqis only.

Papers View 'Military Option' Against Iraq

NC0908090190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MENA)—The press statement that President Husni Mubarak made before representatives of the Egyptian, Arab, and world media yesterday received extensive coverage in the Cairo press today. The three dailies Al-AHRAM, AL-AKHBAR, and AL-JUMHURIYAH headlined President Mubarak's call for an urgent Arab summit within the coming 24 hours to discuss the explosive situation in the Gulf.

The papers highlight President Mubarak's appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for a response to the Arab umbrella, the withdrawal of troops, and the return of legitimacy to Kuwait. The papers underscore Egypt's readiness to take part with its troops in a joint Arab force to be deployed between Iraq and Kuwait. The three papers also note President Mubarak's warning to the brothers in Iraq that an aggression against Iraq is in the offing from various parties, warning that it will be horrific and destructive. In their editorials, AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR emphasize that the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its subsequent events will undermine Arab solidarity and turn it into a mere mirage.

In an editorial entitled, "A Scenario for Ruination," AL-AHRAM writes that if Iraq invaded Kuwait in three hours, it is expected that it will suffer from the total embargo that will be imposed on it for several months at least. The paper notes that some believe that the crisis will end with the use of the military option after the diplomatic efforts had failed and since economic sanctions are expected not to work. Such an option, in the long run, will be translated into the deployment of UN troops in which the U.S. troops will get the greatest share.

The paper adds that it seems that there is a comprehensive crisis scenario that defines the actions to be taken according to developments. The decision to adopt sanctions followed Iraq's refusal to withdraw from Kuwait and to reinstate the legitimacy, while the military option is conditional on the Iraqi aggression's expansion to involve Saudi Arabia.

AL-AHRAM points out that if Iraq anticipated all this, there are other parties who will not allow it to get away with its booty and are out to get it, even if it accepted to stop at that. The paper emphasizes that there are powers that are trying to drag Iraq into a battle whose time and place are calculated and adds that the real danger is for these powers to drag Iraq into the final battle, such as that with Israel. The paper notes that should Iraq

respond to that, these powers will strike with full force and might at a time when Iraq is not at its best.

Under the title "The Significance of World Unanimity in Condemning the Invasion", an AL-AKHBAR editorial refers to the world reactions to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and describes them as something unique in the history of international relations. It reflects the recent international changes that have created a spirit of detente among the enemies of yesterday and joined them together for the sake of the world's peace and security.

The paper notes that this unanimity which is unprecedented in the history of the international community in condemning the barbaric Iraqi invasion of the peaceful State of Kuwait shows that the world community rejects any kind of conquest as well as the use of brute force to suppress small groups of people.

The paper adds that this is also the first time that the Security Council has issued with such speed and semi-unanimity the severest and most binding sanctions to all UN member states. This reflects the extent of anger and denunciation by all the world peoples over the destruction of a small state with no history of aggression against the state from which it received this treacherous stab.

The paper expresses regret at the behavior of this handful of parties who could not dare voice their rejection of a serious precedent of aggression by an Arab state against another Arab state. The paper says these few are motivated by hidden ambitions that make them wink at this earthquake that has undermined Arab solidarity and tuned it into a mere mirage.

Two Soviet Warships Transit Suez Canal

NC0908095490 Cairo MENA in English 0929 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Ismailia, Egypt, Aug 9 (MENA)—Two Soviet warships transited the Suez Canal today heading for the Red Sea on their way to the Gulf.

Moroccan Envoy Hands Hassan Message to Mubarak

LD0908103890 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0958 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Aug (MAP)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak yesterday evening received the Kingdom of Morocco's ambassador to Cairo, Mohamed Tazi, who conveyed to him a verbal message from King Hassan II of Morocco. The message comes within the framework of continued consultations between the Moroccan king and President Mubarak, particularly in these critical circumstances through which the Arab world is passing currently, and ways of dealing with the challenges it is facing. [sentence as received]

Libya

'Plan' Drawn Up To Contain Gulf Crisis

LD0808143890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The Arab people are following the current events in the Arab Gulf and the accompanying developments aimed at the internationalization of the crisis and the start of a concentrated military intervention in the region.

Despite what has taken place among the brothers in Kuwait and Iraq, and however bad the situation becomes, the crisis still remains an internal affair of the Arab nation. However, the enemies of the Arab nation, the imperialists, and the Zionists, have found in all this an opportunity to wage a new crusade, led by the United States, to create an imperialist presence in the Arab Gulf region.

Observers says that never before in any crisis or conflict in any area in the world has there been such a concentration of fighter planes, navies, and warships, coupled with reinforcements from beyond the seas as is happening now in the Gulf region.

Indeed, U.S. fighter bomber aircraft have been moved from Britain to the U.S. bases in Turkey so as to be close to the conflict area. Nine U.S. warships, led by the aircraft carrier Saratoga carrying 60 bomber and fighter planes, have left for the Arab Gulf region. Eight U.S. warships, supported by British and French warships, have also moved to the Arab Gulf. France has also ordered one of its military frigates to proceed to the Gulf. It is carrying 220 men and is equipped with missiles and helicopters. It will join two other French warships already in the Arab Gulf. The U.S. aircraft carrier Independent, accompanied by eight other warships, has left the Indian Ocean region en route to Arab Gulf waters.

He who follows the conflicts, wars, and events that have taken place in the past, comparing them with the current crisis among the brothers in Kuwait and Iraq, will readily see that never before has there been such a feverish show of force and arrogance as is happening now. This shows that the Arab nation is the direct target because of its important strategic position which abounds with all sorts of natural resources, in addition to the fact that the Arab people from the Gulf to the ocean have begun to care consciously for their interests, rights and destiny. This is the essence of the Kuwaiti-Iraqi crisis.

Whatever happens among the Arab brothers, there can be no justification or excuse for preparing to wage a crusade or world war for which the whle world's forces are amassed, for which all types of forces and navies are concentrated alongside the most modern inventions of the Western military arsenal, and for imposing a state of military and economic blockade on the region as a punishment.

The Arab nation is capable of most efficiently solving its problems within the framework of the Arab nation. This

has been affirmed by the Great Arab Jamahiriyah, expressed in its statement on the events, which was issued by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation in respect of foreign interference in the region, a matter which the Great Jamahiriyah categorically rejects. The Arabs are capable of solving their problems by themselves and any interference is tantamount to an aggression against the Arab nation.

Out of the Great Jamahiriyah's anxiety to rob the enemies of the Arab nation of all opportunity to find an excuse for intervention in the area, it has drawn up a plan for the containment of the crisis among the brothers out of its deep belief in Arab solidarity and common destiny.

Morocco

'Source' Denies Military Participation in Gulf

LD0808133290 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Rabat, Aug. 7 -(MAP)—A well-informed Moroccan source here has denied any military participation of Morocco in the multi-national force deployed by the United States to protect Saudi Arabia from a possible Iraqi attack. Some international news agencies had earlier reported that Morocco and Egypt would have accepted to participate in the multi-national force. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Receives Saudi Envoy 7 Aug

EA0708165990 Khartoum SUNA in English 0913 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, 7 August (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and prime minister (words indistinct) 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir discussed here yesterday with the Saudi ambassador, Muhammad Sabri, the current developments at the Arab arena. Bashir asserted the Sudan keenness to preserve Arab unity and solidarity and encourage measures for narrowing inter-Arab differences through diplomacy the Zionists and other Arab enemies to exploit them [sentence as received]. The RCC chairman assured the Saudi diplomat of the Arab and Islamic nations' appreciation for the Saudi king's (?efforts) towards stability.

Urges Removal of Foreign Forces

EA0808213090 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, received at his office at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers at noon today Mr. (Joseph) [name indistinct], U.S. charge d'affaires to Sudan, who delivered a letter from U.S. President George Bush concerning bilateral relations and political developments in the Gulf region. During the meeting, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir said that Sudan's position on the conflict was that the conflict was an Arab one that the Arabs must resolve peacefully with the removal of all foreign forces and foreign intervention from the region.

Marine Blockade Imposed by 'Imperialist Powers'

LD0908092190 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Khartoum, Hanibal [August] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-INQADH newspaper out in Khartoum yesterday confirmed the growing Arab official and popular rejection of the attempts by the imperialist powers to intervene in Arab affairs and impose their forces on the Arabs' affairs and fate.

The newspaper talked about the endeavour of the imperialist powers to impose marine blockade on the Arab region and the presence of around 50 U.S., British and French naval vessels in the Arab gulf region.

Tunisia

President Receives Call From Kuwaiti Amir

LD0708131890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received today a telephone call from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

Receives Saddam's Envoy, Message

LD0808123490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn. The message was conveyed to the head of state at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage this morning by Muhammad Hamza al-Zubaydi, the [Iraqi] minister of transportation and communications and the special envoy of the president of the republic of Iraq. [passage omitted]

An informed source at the Presidency reports that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has reiterated to the Iraqi envoy Tunisia's deep concern over the current situation in the Gulf as a result of the military escalation and the development of events which endanger and threaten security and stability in the region. The same source added that the head of state insisted again on the need to contain the problem peacefully within an Arab framework in order to safeguard pan-Arab security and the unity of the Arab ranks.

Expresses Support for Iraq

JN0808133790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Aug (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has received a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on bilateral ties and the latest regional developments.

Muhammad Hamzah, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and minister of transport and communications, conveyed the message during a meeting with the Tunisian president here today. Iraqi Ambassador to Tunisia Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Muhammad Hamzah said in a press statement that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reiterated the support of Tunisia—both the people and the government—for Iraq under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in firmly resisting any foreign intervention in the region.

Hamzah added that the Tunisian president called upon the Arab states to make concerted efforts to stand united against any foreign intervention in the region. He went on to say that he also discussed with the Tunisian president bilateral ties and ways of enhancing them.

The envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn had earlier conveyed messages from the president to his brothers Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Mauritanian President Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on bilateral ties and the latest developments in the Arab arena.

'Committee for Solidarity' With Iraq Formed

LD0908013490 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] In Tunisia the formation of a higher committee for solidarity to support the Arab people in Iraq in their firm confrontation of foreign interference in the region was declared.

In a statement issued yesterday, the committee decided to open the doors to all Tunisian citizens and political and patriotic personalities to volunteer to join the committee in its pan-Arab work against all forms of foreign interference and aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The statement, relayed by TAP [Tunisien Agence Presse], stressed that the grave events in the Arab region, represented by blatant U.S. arrogance and its threats to interfere in Arab affairs, require the Arab masses to stand firmly to defeat this aggression and protect Arab national security.

The statement, which was signed by representatives of political and patriotic forces in Tunisia, condemned all forms of behavior adopted by Arab regimes in coordination with the Zionist entity and European countries in order to strike at Arab national security.

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Returns From Cairo Meetings

JN0408144390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0610 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, 4 Aug (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah returned to Manama from Egypt early this morning after leading the Bahraini delegation to the 19th session of the Islamic foreign ministers.

The minister also attended the meetings of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council, which ended just before midnight yesterday.

Iranian Foreign Minister Arrives in Manama

JN0908001690 Manama WAKH in English 1655 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Manama, Aug 8 (GNA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here this evening on a visit to Bahrain.

The Iranian minister is carrying a message to H.H the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He was received by Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah and the Iranian Charge d'Affairs Hoseyn Naraqiyan.

Delivers Message to Amir

NC0908082490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] In continuation of his visit to Persian Gulf countries, our Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati arrived in Bahrain last night at the head of a high-ranking political delegation and was welcomed by the Bahraini foreign minister.

After his arrival there, Mr. Velayati met with Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah and discussed the recent developments in the region after Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait. During this meeting, which was also attended by the Bahraini prime minister, foreign minister, and interior minister, the message from our President Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the recent developments in the region was handed over to the Bahraini amir.

During this meeting, Mr. Velayati explained the stand of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the situation in the Persian Gulf and developments around it, and pointed out: The era of conquests is over, and the world and the region need peace and calm. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the powerful country of the region, seriously emphasizes the need to preserve international borders and the independence and territorial integrity of all the countries in this sensitive part of the world.

In continuation, the Bahraini amir thanked the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his fraternal message. He expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for sending a high-ranking political delegation to neighboring countries to express solidarity describing this as extremely significant. He added that he attaches great importance to the future of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Bahrain. The amir of Bahrain also pointed to the need for the exchange of delegations between the two countries in order to expand relations in various dimensions. Expressing his country's readiness to establish a long-term friendship in all aspects with Iran, he stated that the occupation of Kuwait and the announcement on its annexation to Iraq are unacceptable.

Says Kuwait Invasion 'Unacceptable'

LD0908080990 Tehran IRNA in English 0725 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A message of the Iranian president on the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region was handed over to Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman al Khalifah of Bahrain on Wednesday [8 August].

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message was submitted by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati who is currently in the Bahraini capital of Manama.

Velayati explained Iran's stand on regional developments stressing that the time of conquest has come to an end and the world especially the strategic Persian Gulf region was in need of peace, security and stability.

Shaykh Khalifah told Velayati that the Iraqi occupation of the neighbouring Kuwait and its subsequent annexation was unacceptable.

Shaykh Khalifah praised the visit of the Iranian delegation under the present crucial juncture as an expression of solidarity with the Arab countries of the region. He also said that his country attaches great importance to its ties with Iran.

Velayati told the Bahraini leader that as the most powerful country in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran lays emphasis on respect for international borders, independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the Persian Gulf countries.

Velayati is touring the regional countries for consultations with the heads of states on Iraqi aggression on Kuwait. Before arriving in Manama he visited Syria, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwait

UN Envoy Comments on U.S. Troops in Region

NC0808064590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] George Bush, the U.S. President, issued orders for U.S. forces to be dispatched to and stationed in Saudi Arabia. The U.S. Defense Department, the

Pentagon, announced the news and stressed that this step has been taken as an expedient with the concurrence of Saudi Arabia and that the U.S. forces will be part of a multinational force for combating the mounting Iraqi threat. [passage omitted]

The Kuwaiti envoy to the United Nations said yesterday that the dispatch of U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia is a source of satisfaction and assurance to the Kuwaiti Government and people. According to AFP, he was commenting following his meeting with Perez de Cuellar, the UN secretary general, and when addressing correspondents he said: The situation in the region is entirely beyond the control of the Arab League, and now the international community should intervene in this regard. He said: The only peace plan acceptable to Kuwait is UN Security Council Resolution 661, which demands the complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

Resistance Fighters Issue Second Communique

NC0808114890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1043 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The Kuwaiti News Agency [KUNA] has reported that Kuwaiti resistance men attacked an Iraqi guard post in the center of Kuwait city. In Communique No. 2, the agency said that a number of Kuwaiti resistance fighters attacked the guard post in the Hawalli district with grenades, wounding three Iraqi soldiers. The attack occurred at noon yesterday.

Envoy Says Egypt, Morocco To Join UN Forces

JN0808201790 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Interview with Shaykh Ibrahim Du'ayj al-Sabah, envoy of the Kuwaiti amir, by reporter Kamal Tarabay, "during a news conference in Paris," date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabay] Will you convey a specific message to French leaders from his highness Amir al-Sabah, or will you meet with a number of French officials?

[Al-Sabah] Not at all. In the first place, we are bringing reassurances to the Kuwaiti community in France. We came to solve their problems, to be reassured about them, to convey to them the greetings of his highness the amir, as well as his concern about his sons and brothers outside Kuwait. And through you, we send our thanks and appreciation to the people, the government, the president, and media of France.

I was asked about whether we will attend negotiations; we say there will be no negotiations under occupation. We will not accept negotiations. A minisummit was proposed to his highness the amir a few days ago. However, his highness refused to attend any summit or meeting with the aggressor and invader as long as any part of Kuwait is still under occupation. The world appreciated this position and stance.

[Tarabay] This is a clear question that needs a clear answer: Are the members of the provisional government that was established, particularly Colonel 'Ala, Kuwaitis or non-Kuwaitis?

[Al-Sabah] As far as I know, the aforementioned is not a Kuwaiti.

[Tarabay] Does this mean that Col. 'Ala, who is named the prime minister of the Kuwaiti Government, is not a Kuwaiti?

[Al-Sabah] Not at all. They could not find a Kuwaiti who would agree to become an official or ruler, or to occupy any other position under the occupation. Even the Kuwaiti opposition did not agree with this. You all know this.

[Tarabay] You undoubtedly know there is a collective defense pact among the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council and there is a military force, called the Peninsula Shield Forces, to protect any member states. The collective defense pact was not implemented, and the Peninsula Shield Forces were not moved. What is your assessment of this situation?

[Al-Sabah] As I have said at the beginning, I am neither a military man nor a politician. We are satisfied with the position of the Gulf states. I learned today that Egypt and Morocco will dispatch forces to Saudi Arabia. These forces will be the nucleus of the international forces in the region to repulse the aggression.

[Tarabay] Has the amir of Kuwait asked for U.S. military intervention in Kuwait from President George Bush?

[Al-Sabah] I have no answer to this question. However, we are ready to cooperate with any side in the world to regain our land. This is a legitimate right of all nations and peoples.

295 British Airways Passengers Remain

NC0908095890 Paris AFP in English 0919 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Dubai, Aug 9 (AFP) - Thirty-six passengers of a British Airways plane grounded in Kuwait have been taken to Baghdad by Iraqi troops, but another 295 remain stuck in Kuwaiti hotels, the airline said here Thursday [9 August].

A BA spokesman denied earlier reports that more than 200 passengers of the Boeing 747, which was stopping over in Kuwait when Iraqi forces invaded on August 2, had been transferred in buses to Baghdad.

"We have identified the location of a majority of passengers and we know that 295 of them, as well as the crew members, are in three hotels in Kuwait," he said, adding that all were "safe and well."

"Thirty-six passengers are in Baghdad and they are also safe and well," the spokesman said, without being able to specify names or nationalities.

He said the plane remained grounded at the airport in Kuwait, despite an assertion by the French government that it had been authorised to fly to Baghdad and then back to Europe.

The BA jet had arrived from London and was due to fly to Madras in India and Kuala Lumpur when the invasion occured.

Another 60 British Airways personnel remain in Kuwait, the spokesman said, and they have all been accounted for.

Former Speaker Al-Sa'dun Said Alive in Kuwait

JN0908110290 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 6 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-KHALIJ—Informed Kuwaiti sources have denied that Former [Kuwaiti] Parliament Speaker Jasim al-Sa'dun has been killed. The sources said al-Sa'dun is at home in Kuwait.

Oman

Government Ready To Attend Emergency Arab Summit

JN0908001590 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Muscat, Aug 8 (GNA(—The Sultanate of Oman has expressed readiness to take part in the emergency Arab summit which was proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

A statement issued by the Omani Foreign Ministry and carried out by Oman News Agency, said that Oman's participation in the summit emerges from its belief of the importance of unifying arab action and finding a unified stand to review developments of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Minister To Deliver Qabus Note to Yemeni Leader

NC0908094590 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0839 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Salalah, 9 Aug (WAKH)—Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn Muhammad al-Rawwas left Muscat for Sanaa today for a short visit to Yemen during which he will convey a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn Sa'id of Oman to Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The OMANI NEWS AGENCY, which reported the news, said that the message deals with the current situation in the region.

Qatar

Iran's Velayati Holds Talks With Officials

LD0808073790 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati currently on a tour of regional countries met Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al Thani in Doha Tuesday [7 August] and discussed the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region.

Velayati briefed the Qatari prince on Iran's stance vis-a-vis the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and stressed the Islamic Republic's respect for territorial integrity and independence of all regional countries.

Welcoming Tehran's speedy and firm reaction towards the Kuwaiti occupation, Sheikh Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al Thani said that the sincere stance of Iran motivated many Arab countries to oppose the Iraqi aggression.

Stressing the need to expand cooperation between the Islamic Republic and the southern Persian Gulf states, he said Qatar was ready to strive to this end.

While in Doha, Velayati also held talks with his Qatari counterpart Tuesday.

Before arriving here, the Iranian minister visited Syria and Oman where he discussed similar issues with top-ranking officials of these countries.

Cabinet Reviews Iraqi Invasion, Urges Dialogue

JN0908083990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1257 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 8 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, presided over the ordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers today.

QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] has said that the Qatari amir briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of his contacts and consultations with the kings, presidents, and leaders of Arab and friendly states, concerning the invasion of the State of Kuwait on 2 August. QNA added that the Council reviewed the wave of concern and dismay triggered by this invasion on the Arab, Islamic, and international levels, and the political, diplomatic, and military moves that ensued, including the Security Council's resolution on 6 August imposing sanctions on Iraq.

The Council voiced its belief that continuation of the situation created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the dangerous possibilities inherent in this invasion, forebode a critical outcome, not only for the two sides of the dispute but for other states in the region and for international peace and security.

Moreover, the Council said that the basic approach to resolving the dispute lies in returning things between the two countries to the way they were prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, in accordance with the resolutions issued by the Security Council, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The Qatari Council of Ministers voiced its deep appreciation for the sincere Arab and international efforts to restore security, stability, and peace, and clear the atmosphere between Iraq and Kuwait.

The Council reiterated the constant Qatari position that advocates dialogue between the brothers as the means to settle disputes, and not using or threatening to use force, in harmony with the regulations of international charters. The Council also expressed concern over maintaining the Gulf region's security and peace, so as to preserve its stability and steer its energies in the service of its peace and security, building its future, and achieving its progress, which, consequently, will serve the interests of the nation and the entire world. [passage omitted]

Says Invasion Poses 'Great Danger'

NC0808164490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Doha, 8 Aug (MENA)—During its routine weekly session chaired by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, the Qatari Cabinet reviewed the wave of anxiety and dismay at all Arab, Islamic, and international levels caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the resulting political, diplomatic, and military moves, including the UN Security Council resolution passed on Monday [6 August] imposing sanctions on Iraq.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said today the Cabinet stressed that continuation of the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait constitutes a great danger, not only to the two parties to the conflict but also to the other countries in the region and to international peace and security.

The Cabinet believes that the first basic step for resolving the conflict lies in restoring the situation between Iraq and Kuwait to what it was prior to the military invasion of Kuwait, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC].

The council expressed full confidence that the Arab leaders will be guided by the Arab nation's supreme interests and by their desire to preserve its solidarity and strengthen its unity in containing this crisis and reaching a quick and lasting solution acceptable to the two parties concerned.

During the meeting, Foreign Minister Mubarak al-Khatir reviewed the results of the 12th extraordinary session of the GCC ministerial council recently held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on the Gulf conflict.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Citizens on Gulf Crisis

LD0908114390 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1102 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to citizens; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; Thanks be to God, master of the universe; and prayers and peace be on the last of the prophets and the messengers, our lord Muhammad, and on all his kinfolk and companions.

Dear brother citizens: Peace, God's mercy, and blessings be upon you.

No doubt you realize through your following of the course of the regrettable events in the Arab Gulf region during the last few days, the gravity of the situation facing the Arab nation, in the shadow of the current circumstances. And you undoubtedly know that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has exerted all that it could, in terms of effort and attempts, with the governments of the Iraq Republic and the State of Kuwait, for the sake of containing the dispute that has arisen between the two countries. In this context, I held many telephone calls and fraternal talks with the brothers. And as a result of this, a meeting was held between the delegations of Iraq and Kuwait in Saudi Arabia, in a continuing attempt to heal the crack and narrow the views and avoid an escalation of matters. Some Arab fraternal kings and presidents of the Arab states have contributed a great effort for which they are thanked, out of the belief by all in the unity of the Arab nation and the consolidation of its solidarity and cooperation in all that achieves it success in the service of its fateful causes.

However, with great regret, matters developed in the opposite direction to what we were endeavoring; in fact, opposite to the aspirations of the peoples of the Islamic and Arab nations, and all the peace-loving countries of the world. Painful and regrettable events have been taking place since the dawn of last Thursday, August 2, 1990, in a way that took the whole world by surprise, when the Iraqi forces stormed the brotherly State of Kuwait in the most vile aggression known to the Arab nation in its modern history, which made the brotherly people of Kuwait homeless and caused them great suffering.

While expressing its deep displeasure at the aggression to which the State of Kuwait, a sisterly neighbor was subjected, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia declares its categorical rejection of all the measures and declarations that followed that aggression, which were rejected in all the statements issued by Arab leaderships, the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, and the Gulf Cooperation Council, as well as all Arab and international bodies and organizations.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its demand that the situation be returned to what it was before the Iraqi storming, and for the return of the ruling family led by his highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the state summit which was called by His Excellency President Muhamad Husni Mubarak of the sisterly Egypt Arab Republic will lead to results that will realize the Arab nation's hopes and bolster its march toward solidarity and unity of word.

O brothers, that regretful event was followed by Iraq deploying huge forces on the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. In front of these bitter realities, and out of

the eagerness of the kingdom for the safety of its territory and the protection of its vital and economic constituents, our wish to strengthen its defense potential and increase the level of training of its armed forces, and out of the eagerness of the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to side with peace and nonrecourse to force to solve disputes, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expressed its wish for the participation of fraternal Arab forces and other friendly forces; thus the Government of the United States and the British Government took the initiative, on the basis of the relations of friendship which link the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and these states, to send air and land forces in order to back the Saudi Armed Forces in performing their duty to defend the homelan l and its citizens against any aggression, with the complete emphasis that this measure is not addressed to anybody but is only for a purely defensive aim imposed by the current circumstances faced by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is worth mentioning here that the forces which will participate in the joint training between them and the Saudi Armed Forces will be present temporarily in the Kingdom's territory, and will leave it immediately when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia so wishes.

We pray God will guide our steps toward everything in which lies the good of our religion and the safety of our homeland, and to guide us on the right path. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Fahd Converses With World Leaders by Phone

Thanks Mubarak for Stance

LD0808185590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God support him, today had a telephone conversation with his brother his excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, after the latter's address to the media. He—may God protect him—expressed to his excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak his appreciation for the clear and frank content of the speech and informed him of the kingdom's acceptance to attend the Arab summit called for by his excellency President Mubarak in his address.

Talks With Bendjedid, Al-Asad

LD0808185990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, may God protect him, today had telephone convesations with his brothers President Chadli Bendjedid of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, and Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic. They exchanged views on the current situation being witnessed by the Arab region and on ways to resolve it in a manner which would be in the service of the Arab nation and protect its march towards solidarity.

Receives Call From Thatcher

LD0808185190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, also received today Wednesday a telephone call from Her Excellency the Prime Minister of Britain, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher. During the call, the latest developments in the Arab region and issues of mutual interest were discussed.

Speaks to Turkey's Ozal

LD0808184990 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin- 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received today Wednesday a telephone call from His Excellency President Turgut Ozal, of the Republic of Turkey. This comes within the framework of the consultations and the exchange of views on the current developments in the Arab region and on ways to ensure the interests of the Islamic nation and serve its fateful causes.

Fahd Sends Message to Jordan's King Husayn

LD0808114790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1120 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Amman, 8 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a message to his brother His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. The message was delivered by his excellency the education minister and the acting minister of higher education, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytar, who was received by King Husayn in Amman last night. [passage omitted]

Amman radio reported that the message of the custodian of the two holy mosques to his brother, King Husayn, fell within the framework of the consultations and the exchange of views in light of the latest developments in the region of the Arab Gulf. It added that the message was also aimed at boosting the efforts to reach the desired solution to this issue.

'Arafat, Delegation Received by King Fahd

LD0808180890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1747 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Jeddah, 8 August, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud today received in his office in al-Salam Palace the president of the state of Palestine, Yasir 'Arafat, and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the national guard; His Excellency the minister of information, Ali al-Sha'ir; and His Excellency the minister of state and member of the council of ministers, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud.

Yasir Arafat is accompanied by Salah Khalaf, member of Fatah central committee; Hani al-Hasan, member of Fatah central committee; and Subhi al-Karsh, member of Fatah central committee and ambassador of the state of Palestine to the Kingdom.

Conclude Visit, Leave Jeddah

LD0808182790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1814 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah 8 Aug 90. SPA—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Jeddah this evening, following a visit to the kingdom. [passage omitted]

Editorial Urges 'Reason and Conscience'

PM0708120190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Aug 90 p 17

[Editorial: "Arab Political Values Facing Difficult Test"]

[Excerpts] The Arab nation is a nation of good qualities and virtues... a nation which believes in God's will and realizes that the principal guarantee for its unity lies in the unity of hearts and hopes before the unity of states and political organizations. [passage omitted]

If respecting a neighbor's rights is a duty, how about a brother's rights?

And if commitment to the spirit of international charters and their stipulations and caring about the homeland's sovereignty and territorial integrity are the duty of every civilized state in our contemporary world, how can some of us ignore international and Arab charters bearing their signatures? And how can they ignore the others' sovereignty and territorial integrity?

And if the sentiments of Arab brotherhood have provided, and continue to provide, a protective shield for every Arab country in calamities, how can these sentiments be treated with contempt and these ties be violated for the sake of ambitions which are of no benefit to Arab consensus and which, indeed, expose the Arab body as a whole to the danger of foreign intervention and hostile exploitation?!

And if we call on the world's states to care about the Arabs' interests in them and complain against the enemies at international forums for their violation of the dignity of the sons of Arabism in Palestine and Lebanon and for their encroachement on their rights, how can we accept that one of us shed his brother's blood and encroach on his dignity? And how can we expect the international community to respect us and our rights, when we cannot establish a weight for ourselves and when some of us do not respect the others' rights?

The difficult days facing our Arab world today are a bitter experience in which the call of reason and conscience must triumph over the adventurous ambitions and inclinations, and which must be ended with the restoration of rights.

Riyadh Paper Urges Arab Cooperation on Crisis

PM0808100790 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 5 Aug 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Will Arab Reason Overcome Its Problems?!"]

[Excerpts] The present crisis between Kuwait and Iraq has transcended its regional, Arab, and Islamic boundaries and moved into the greater international political environment. This means that the proposals raised at all levels will remain remote from Arab interests and security—which is understood by all the Arabs, whatever their views and affiliations. Perhaps this crisis represents the biggest challenge facing the Arab leaders, in terms of how to overcome it through Arab solutions in isolation from foreign stances. [passage omitted]

The issue is very sensitive and multifaceted, but the Arabs can still resolve it within its internal framework. And perhaps the consultations being conducted, the meetings being held, and the telephone contacts being made among the Arab nation's leaders cause us to believe that it is the Arab nation alone which can formulate solutions within the Arab environment. But that can only take place when the issue is dealt with in an objective spirit and in accordance with a moral principle that would prompt us to shoulder our historical responsibility with regard to our security. Arab courage can effectively resolve any sensitive and serious situation without turning to other parties.

We experienced difficult situations in our wars with Israel, and before that we were burned by the fire of colonialism and our being lost between the centers of power in the world. We paid a high price in blood and money, and we do not believe that times have changed. The proof of this is that the Gulf problem has assumed dimensions that transcended the boundaries and has created difficult possibilities for the Arab nation, which, as a result, must keep abreast of the international position and place the chances of cooperation in our hands, not other people's.

Paper Deplores Collapse of Arab 'Rosy Dreams'

PM0708105190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Aug 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Return to Arab Reason"]

[Text] The rosy dreams we have been having for decades were visions and talk of pan-Arabism and nationalism and perhaps amity and fraternity. Some of us even used more extreme expressions in a louder voice.

We lived these thrilling dreams and adopted them in our policies and in our conscience and pan-Arab senses. Then we tried to implement them whenever there was a glimmer of hope or opportunity. The Arabs let no opportunity pass without talking about them and singing their praise. For them, and because of them, we lived our battles against the Israeli enemy who usurped the land and honor and rendered an entire people homeless as

refugees in God's vast world, still carrying the dream that the occupation and the usurpation would end and that legitimacy would prevail and they would get self-determination without pressure, terrorism, intimidation, or indignity.

For them, and because of them, we endure this current gloomy situation lest we lose hope and give in to despair of everything that we have learned and absorbed into our conscience and our blood.

For them, and because of them, we look forward to the protection of our vast Arab world from the plot that is being hatched against us with the aim of determining our fate and drawing us away from the major issues in the direction of minor issues portrayed as major issues so that we may forget and bury the major issues and, in so doing, forget—as other nations did before us—our main priorities because of preoccupation with local instruments and symbols.

There is nothing more difficult for an Arab than to see a vision of his nation's great history and national feelings, ambitions, and aspirations, and hopes of freedom and civilization with the full meaning of respect for human beings and appreciation of their capabilities and care for the rights of brothers, there is nothing more difficult for an Arab than to see all that come tumbling down under a hammer made and fed by the enemies to destroy every ambition and light in his vast homeland.

Is there still a slim chance for the Arab mind to wake up, learn, and realize the dangers around it? Does it have any desire left to return to its conscience and restore its vitality and look to the reality which it must address, or have matters reached a point of no return or a dead end?

One hopes, or believes, that these big calamities are also vivid and practical lessons to rebuild one's self with awareness of the most important rule which is agreement to work for a nation which has been unfortunate enough to stumble and receive blow after blow and spear after spear.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati Arrives 8 Aug

LD0808105590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Following his meeting with the high-ranking officials of Qatar, Mr. Velayati, minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning for a short visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. At the airport he was welcomed by the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, as well as the ambassador and staff of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Abu Dhabi.

Holds Talks With President

LD0808165190 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the United Arab Emirates' president, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan in Abu Dhabi today.

Talks between the two centred on mutual ties, the regional crisis in the wake of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and future relations between the regional countries.

"We believe in firm unchangeable principles which guide us toward supporting the right," Velayati said referring to the latest turn of events. Shaykh Zayid said that his country always stressed the need for positive cooperation between the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The situation warrants us to stand beside the other against the undesirable outcome of these events in a spirit of brotherhood," he said regarding the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The UAE president thanked the Islamic Republic for its good and timely stance against the Iraqi aggression. "We did not anticipate anything else from our good Muslim neighbour (Iran)," he said.

Velayati arrived here today on the fourth leg of his regional visit which also took him to Syria, Oman and Qatar.

Delivers Message to Al Nuhayyan

JN0908094290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1225 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, dealing with the current developments in the region and Iran's position on them, in addition to bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akhbar Velayati, during his meeting with the UAE president here today.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Rashid Bin-Ahmad al-Mu'alla, the Umm al-Qaywayn ruler, and Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Departs After Visit

JN0908040590 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 8 (GNA)—Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here this evening after a short visit to the UAE.

He was seen off by UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah.

President Welcomes Extraordinary Arab Summit

JN0908001890 Manama WAKH in English 1645 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 8 GNA—UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has welcomed the convening of the extraordinary Arab summit proposed by President Husni Mubarak of Egypt to study the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY (WAM) said that decision was adopted during a telephone conversation held by the UAE president with President Mubarak this evening.

Council Discusses Crisis; Zayid Leaves for Cairo

JN0908112590 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Excerpts] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, chaired a meeting for the union's higher council before his highness' departure to Cairo.

The council listened to a report on the current political activity to contain the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait and the outcome of the intensive contacts and consultations held by the president of the state with Arab and foreign leaders over the past few days on the latest developments in the Gulf. His highness discussed in those contacts the possibility of reaching an urgent solution to the crisis of the region in the interest of the Arab nation and its solidarity and unity, especially under the current circumstances.

The council stressed the importance of making non-stop efforts to contain and overcome the developments in a spirit of brotherhood, and respecting the bonds of blood relations, history, neighborliness, and common destiny among the brothers. The council expressed confidence in the prudence of his highness the president of the state and his brother Arab leaders and its appreciation for all earnest efforts and auspices of good-will aimed at bringing about the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territories and restoring the situation to normal as it was before in the interests of the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the state, left the country, with God's care and protection, at 1100 today. He is leading the United Arab Emirates' delegation to the emergency Arab summit, which will open in Cairo later today to tackle developments in the Gulf and to discuss how to resolve the Iraqi-Kuwaiti crisis. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Calls Mubarak, Al-Asad; Supports Summit

JN0908073690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the Presidential Council chairman, has phoned his brother Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. They exchanged views on the arrangements for convening the emergency Arab summit.

The Presidential Council chairman received a telephone call today from his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during which they reviewed the rapid developments on the Arab arena in light of the deteriorating situation in the Gulf, and discussed the convening of an emergency Arab summit to resolve the problem between Iraq and Kuwait within an Arab context.

The Yemeni news agency, SABA', has learned that the brother president has stressed that our country supports the convening of the emergency Arab summit, called for by Syria, or any Arab meeting at any level to contain and resolve any problem among brothers through understanding and dialogue and without any foreign power intervention in order to spare the region the dangers and threats resulting from foreign military presence.

Al-Qadhdhafi Calls Salih on U.S. Presence

JN0808121990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has received a telephone call from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

During the conversation, they reviewed the deteriorating situation in the Gulf after the landing of U.S. Forces on Arab territories and the threats and dangers this poses to Arab freedom and dignity.

Israel Warned Against 'Hostile Action'

JN0808214790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Sanaa, 8 Aug (INA)—Yemeni Defense Minister Major General Haytham Qasim Tahir has warned the Zionist enemy against exploiting the current events in the Gulf to carry out any hostile action against any Arab country.

In press statements published here today, the Yemeni defense minister said Arab vigilance is required to confront any Zionist aggression, since it is possible that it may exploit these circumstances to launch a fresh aggression against the Arab nation.

He added that the Republic of Yemen is part of the Arab homeland. Therefore, he said, the security of Yemen is part of pan-Arab security.

The minister explained that Yemen is now observing the situation carefully, because it concerns the security of the entire Arab homeland and Arab nation.

Council of Ministers Discusses Gulf Efforts

JN0908094890 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers held an ordinary session this morning under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas.

After the Council reviewed the decisions of its previous session, it discussed the issues on its agenda. It reviewed developments in the region and the results of the Yemeni leadership's extensive efforts to contain the crisis between fraternal Iraq and Kuwait.

The Council reaffirmed the need to continue the efforts of the Yemeni leadership with the brothers the Arab kings and presidents to control the situation and avoid any repercussions that could threaten stability and peace in the region, threaten the sovereignty of Arab countries, and open the way to foreign intervention in the region.

The Council also reaffirmed the need to intensify Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis that would bolster Arab solidarity and preserve the important interests of the Arab nation.

During the meeting, the Council approved a trade agreement between the Republic of Yemen and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. It decided to refer it in its final form to the Council of Representatives to finalize the constitutional measures.

The Council also paused before tackling the subject of the final accounts of the budget for the fiscal year 1989. It will continue discussion of this topic in its next session.

The Council reviewed a number of other subjects and took the necessary measures concerning them.

Petroleum Minister Leaves for Talks in Moscow

JN0808135690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Brother Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, left for Moscow today heading a delegation on a visit to the Soviet Union lasting several days in response to an invitation from his Soviet counterpart.

The brother minister said in a statement to the Yemeni News Agency SABA' that he is bringing a written message from his brother Presidential Council Chairman Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He clarified that he will hold talks with the Soviet petroleum and gas industry minister with the objective of resolving problems and developing the oil fields in the governorate of Shabwah to serve the interests of the two friendly countries and develop the scope of bilateral cooperation. He pointed out that this tour is a continuation of the talks that began at the end of June in Sanaa during the Soviet petroleum and gas industry minister's visit to our country.

RCC Approves 'Merger' Decision With Kuwait

JN0808161890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1436 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Statement issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council, RCC, on 8 August—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O great Iraqi people from the land to the sea; O zealous Arabs everywhere: Scarce are the days when the Arabs are jubilant, when they are joyous because of the meanings these days carry, and when they look forward to the days to come. This has been the situation of the Arabs for the long time in which the foreigner reigned, when the national and pan-Arab will became absent from the seat of government. This had been their situation when national rule began and spread all over the homeland, because although the foreigner has abandoned the formulas of direct colonialism which it had previously adopted, it has not departed from within our ranks through its agents and intrigues. One of the most egregious criminal acts of colonialism was its partition of the homeland, which was a single homeland the day Baghdad was the capital of all Arabs.

Following the independence Arab countries won, imperialism started intensifying its malicious actions. Thus, it partitioned many countries in harmony with the calculations of its aims and objectives to undermine the capabilities of the countries that have acquired a civilized depth and power to act and look forward to an effective national role, not only within their defined areas but also in the entire area of the Arab homeland and the Arab nation in its entirety. Thus, the spiteful pencil and scissors of imperialism began to draw up maps, based on ensuring that every part of the Arab homeland—in case it lives under the entity of an independent state—will remain weak and ineffective toward Arab awakening and unity as a whole and that this action should cast its negative effects and shadows on relations among Arab countries so that infighting and division will replace solidarity and conciliation.

In all cases, while drawing up geographic and sovereignty boundaries for all states, Western colonialism sought to make all states weak and to ensure that partition, with the passage of time, would prevent these states from closing ranks and demonstrating a unified stance. Thus, wherever possible it separated civilization with its high, strong state of preparedness due to the rich culture and demographic density from the resources of the new wealth, petroleum and other minerals, where there is a small population, a lack of cultural depth, and a weak state of preparedness due to the absence of the prerequisites for this.

Thus, colonialism achieved its objectives. The strongest evidence to show its success is that it turned the Arab homeland into 22 states before the launching of the blessed Yemeni unity in May. By pursuing these methods, colonialsm divested the Arabs of not only the components of material capabilities but also of the components of spiritual progress. Poverty among the majority was coupled—poverty is akin to infidelity—with the inequity created by the ready wealth, which was not gained gradually by the minority, which was not properly prepared to dispose of the wealth that it acquired in excess of balanced human needs, without any effort or persistence. Thus, it corrupted many individuals of this minority, foremost among whom are the rulers. Hence, it robbed them of spiritual values and made them forget about their duties to God and man. What has befallen other states in the Arab lands befell Iraq when colonialism divested it of a dear part of it; namely Kuwait, and kept Iraq away from the waters to prevent it from acquiring part of its tactical and strategic abilities, and thus kept part of its people and part of its wealth away from the origin and the wellspring.

Thanks to the traits of Iraqi individuals and to the nature of the age-old depth of its civilization, and because the resources of the new wealth in it cover all parts of its lands from the north, the central regions, and the south, Western colonialism has not managed to achieve through partition in Iraq what it managed to achieve in other Arab states. Thus, Iraq has remained, with the exception of well-known periods in its march, close to God and its individuals. Therefore, after the great July 1968 revolution, God became present in minds, hearts, and consciences.

From another perspective, the human being generally gained a distinguished status, whether theoretically or in behavior, on both the level of the citizens and leadership, except for that part of it which deviated from the course—Kuwait. Because the gates of the sky open up to the active and good will and to the determination of the believers who reject oppression, tyranny, and injustice, the gates of the sky opened up to Iraq before the day of the call on 2 August and to its detached part, Kuwait.

Woe be to those for whom the gates of the sky open up their brightness and who are late in taking that opportunity. Woe be to us from God's torture if we are late in performing our duties toward Him. Some of our duties to Him and on His land are struggle and jihad for the sake of a deep pan-Arab awakening which rectifies affairs and retrieves for the Arab individual his status and leading role in the message of God and life. This cannot be achieved before its correct conditions are achieved, starting with the self. The self we refer to here is a group, national self. Then, the basis of what is right will not be achieved before the part detached from its origin and source is returned. What happened happened on the day of the call on 2 August.

The day of the call is a great day. The gates of the sky opened up before Iraq, with God's will, and wide opportunities opened up before all the Arabs. However, at the same time and on a par with this opportunity and as one of its conditions, new battlefields were opened up for all the believers against all the infidels. No one is more capable than the al-Qadisiyah people and its leadership of fulfilling this opportunity after taking it.

Based on all this, in response to the appeal in the communique of the provisional free Kuwait government, stemming from the great transformation that took place in the lives of our people after the day of the call; for reasons of principles, values, and facts brought forth on that glorious day, 2 August of this month, which was blessed by God in the introduction of the Arabs' victory in their second al-Qadisiyah; in view of what the situation has resulted in after the Croesus entity was shaken and after the earth under its feet and the feet of its collaborators collapsed; with the objective of weakening the hopes of the traitors and evildoers inside and outside the Arab homeland; in order to place issues in their proper perspective by bringing the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole, origin, and source, Iraq; and to rectify what time had wronged and to cancel the injustice and unfairness that had hit Iraq in the heart of its entity before the day of the call; the RCC has decided to return the part and branch, Kuwait, to the whole and root, Iraq, in a comprehensive, eternal, and inseperable merger unity. In this union there will prevail the same concepts and values prevailing in the other parts of Iraq, which will bolster the unity of Iraq—land, individual, regional waters, and space.

O great Iraqi people. O masses of the Arab nation. O Arab leaders, whenever you support the priciples of truth and the interests of the Arabs, and whenever you overcome obscurity and selfishness and reject the foreigner's pressure, ways, and ploys: This has been our decision. It is a rightful, just, and fair decision. It is a decision for the present time and for the future. At the same time, after Iraq acted on 2 August along with all its sons to carry out this honorable national duty, this decision is being made for the Arab nation as a whole in view of the power, capability, faith, and aspirations it implies. It is a decision for all Iraqis, from the land to the sea. At the same time, it is for all good Arabs from the Ocean to the Gulf. Having made this decision, we tell all evildoers and conspirators that all fleets, planes, and centers of oppressive forces in the world, whether inside or outside the Arab homeland, will not shake the palm fronds in al-Basra, al-Qadisiyah, al-Muthanna, Kuwait, al-Jahra', and the city of the call, al-Ahmadi. We say to them we will fight your criminal force, whether you threaten us with it or use it in a way that deserves every sacrifice by the militants and strugglers of the Arabs and all the righteous Arabs. The blood of our martyrs will burn you, so that Iraq will remain glorious and will establish through its glory and the glory of other countries a lofty glory for all the Arabs.

We tell those who are afraid of what they call the Kuwait precedent: You must not be deluded into incorrect measuring of matters; what exists between Iraq and its southern parts in al-Jahra', Kuwait city, and the city of the call is a matter that concerns Iraq. We have no ambitions for territory or for the wealth of anyone. Let those who want to heed lessons do so. We tell those who are trying to assemble the ranks of evil that the many names siding against us will not hide from us the manipulators and the lackeys of hell. The tongues of flame will only further expose their shameless faces. Since the matter is still at the beginning, Iraq is generous, and God is forgiving and merciful. So, let them stop their transgressions against Iraq and remove the venom from their tongues. This is because the continuation of the treacherous plan and preparation for and initiation of aggression will make us accurately monitor the role of every evildoer in this conspiracy. They will not escape but will be taken into account whenever God wishes. Let the Croesus of Kuwait be a lesson to go by instead of being an additional factor for more misguidance, sins, and injustice.

The people of Iraq, as they know, have it in them to make a stand until the victorious end willed by God. Accursed be the lowly. There will be those who will triumph and those who will reap ignominy. The dawn will break and the sun will rise to brighten the paths of darkness and aberration. Iraq is rich in bounties, and the generous people around it are many. Those looking for benefits and trade are also many, and they make their way to Iraq, even if it looks as though an airtight blockade has been imposed on it. The aggression will fail and so will the economic blockade, as well as—God willing and thanks to the resolve of the Iraqis and the Arabs—the military aggression.

After seeking God's forgiveness and help, we will demolish blasphemy with faith. A new dawn has broken in the lives of the Arabs, so that they may add it to what few days they have rejoiced in together, and so that it can act as a beam to dissipate darkness. The dawn has broken to stay, and the bats will have to go back to their caves. God is omnipotent and omnipresent, and while the vicious men do not mind leading lives of humiliation and dependence, the men who will heed his commands would like nothing more than to die when the only option open to them is to die in the cause of God and pass on to their children and grandchildren decent lives. We would tell the foreigners that their accomplices will pay a heavy price and if hostilities should break out, will lead to badges and ranks falling from heads and shoulders, while laurel wreaths will increase, as will the ranks of honor and pride on the heads and shoulders of the chivalrous. God will curse the accursed, and everyone will pay the price of his actions. And the faithful will be rewarded. Say "nothing will happen to us except what God has decreed for us, he is our protector, and in God let the believers put their trust." [Koranic verse] God is great, God is great, God is great; let the lowly be accursed, and God's peace and mercy be upon you, honorable brothers, wherever you are.

[Signed] The Revolution Command Council, 8 August 1990.

Saddam Husayn Addresses National Assembly

JN0808191390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1653 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to the National Assembly on 7 August in Baghdad—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother men and women who are representing

their valiant people, the best representation: The days are not equal in their meanings and sacrifices. It is not at a single juncture of life that man achieves the dreams he has cherished. However, while speaking to you, I feel all the depth of national and pan-Arab human feelings. The moment we are experiencing today under this dome will give shape to its meaning in light of the decisions you make and the opinions you express. Likewise, other places where we have met with our brothers in the Revolution Command Council, the Regional Command, and the provisional free Kuwait government will have their historical meaning.

When a decision that is made at the spur of the moment is to be considered historic, its effects and present and future meanings will have to be different from those of other decisions. You are today, like all the great Iraqi people, before a new historical juncture. The word juncture might be found in usual political speeches. Today, however, the word extends to cover its profound and full sense. The word today means the new will and the new future. It means determination, resolve, and will, whereby we should put things right so that Iraq will go forward and the banners of victory will flutter everywhere, and so that Iraq will be the new launching base for all the Arab free men wherever they might be—the Arabs who have long cherished dreams on the road of unity, progress, and liberation.

This is what is before you to debate today, brothers; it is the return of dear Kuwait to its kinfolk in al-Najaf, Karbala'. We are supposed to decide and appreciate the value of decision, when Kuwait is returned to its kinfolk in al-Najaf, in Karbala', in Baghdad, in Karkuk, in Nineva, and to all our dear people wherever they are—in al-Sulaymaniyah, in Irbil, In Dahuk, in Salah al-din, in al-Basrah, and all the dear cities of Iraq. Kuwait is joining the motherland just as are al-Jahra', al-Ahmadi, and all the villages, and all the good people and the good land that was detached from Iraq some time ago and whose human and national essence was assassinated wherever the foreigner was able to assassinate. There remained enough of this generous essence, though, to decide to return to the lap of its generous mother. Brothers, representatives of the people, this is what you have to discuss, and this is the letter of the provisional free government to the leadership in Iraq, to you, and the people stating that Kuwait is the branch, as historical facts prove [applause], and that Iraq is the land.

In their message, they appealed to Iraq to approve this decision. In a joint meeting of the RCC and the Regional Command, because the provisional free government in cherished Kuwait asked that unity take the form of a comprehensive merger out of commitment and loyalty to the correct historical roots that Kuwait and Iraq have—one existence—the RCC, the Ba'th Party Regional Command, and the Council of Ministers unanimously agreed, as well as the Council of Ministers of the provisional government of beloved Kuwait, that Iraq and Kuwait become the manifestation of a full merger. [applause]

Despite the fact that your emotions are a clear and indisputable decision, I leave the National Assembly speaker here with you for you to make a decision in accordance with the law, in light of what you have heard from me so that we can hear your opinion in the form of a draft resolution later on.

I say, this is a final decision. It is a decision for good. It is a decision for the Iraqi people to become comprehensive in the true meaning of the word, on their territory and its extensions. Those who try to obstruct this decision from outside Iraq, will, with God's help, reap disappointment, defeat, and shame. [applause, chanting of patriotic verse]

Along with this decision and the new Iraq, there is a clear gain for every honorable Arab wherever he may be and for every noble nationalist in all corners of the Arab world; for every widow whose husband has struggled for freedom, for Jerusalem, for Palestine, and for dignity and honor; for every orphan there is also a gain. It is a gain against the behavior of corrupt and despotic people who have no other concern than to parade Arab women in some parts of the Arab homeland. They have no worry but to squander the people's money.

The time has come for the truth to emerge in a blaze of light. This march will not bow except before God, the lord of the skies and the earth. Its banner will be brought down. The new Iraq with its 18 million, 19 million, will be capable of fighting the enemies regardless of their number, with God's help.

We neither commit aggression nor cherish aggression. But whoever attacks us will most certainly regret it and will curse his bad luck later. The will of Iraq will remain lofty, proud, and strong. The men of Iraq, from the land, from Zakhu, to the sea, to al-Ahmadi and Kuwait [applause], will remain dear and lofty. Virtues will be their guide so that darkness will be defeated forever and so that the sun of Iraq will remain shining forever, God willing. [applause]

Saddam Stresses 'Unity' in Ba'th Party Speech

JN0808202390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Address by President Saddam Husayn to Arab Socialist Ba'th Party officials in Baghdad on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. This is like no other day. It is a day on which your great party takes up one of its key objectives, the no. 1 slogan among its three major goals: unity. Implementation begins with this slogan in a dear unity that is unlike any other of its kind. It is the unity of the country with itself, the branch with its root, the part with the whole, aimlessness with purposefulness, and absence with presence. It is the new Iraq that runs from Zakhu to the sea. A good many of us have not set eyes on the beautiful sea because the traitors and foreigners had blocked its view from us from the day they split off the

part from the whole. Today, the great people of Iraq who come from the mountains and from land where Zakhu is to the sea where Kuwait and al-Ahmadi are muster their will and decide to put things right. The right thing is that we are one people and one country and share the same future. Your leadership today made this decision. The decision carries national and pan-Arab meanings, as I have pointed out, and is in the spirit of the principles of your party that we were not in a position to mention before. The decision also carries a challenge to all who want to block the movement of history in the manner sought by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. We tell all the traitors, losers, and all who are lying in wait, and all those who think that their power can triumph over right, that the one power that can triumph over us is God's. [applause]

We tell them in the name of the great people of Iraq and in the name of struggling honorable Ba'thists wherever they are that the will that makes decisions will not bend.

Those who do not know Iraq, nor the Ba'thists as they really are, should see for themselves so they can discover how they will be defeated in all arenas....[interrupted by applause, shouting] Starting today, and after depending on God and with his assistance, your assistance, and that of the great people, goodwill has melded at the two positions of command in the Revolution Command Council and Regional Command and the provisional free Kuwait government to decide that Iraq and Kuwait represent a single state of affairs. This decision will be declared tomorrow, God willing. [applause]

There will come a day with a new shape and a new declaration....[interrupted by applause] The power of Iraq—dependent on the power of God—will be much higher than it was in the past. I do not want to keep you long, comrades, because what is important is action, and words should be accompanied by deeds. You are the soldiers of these people who are leading them at this time. You and the people and your comrades are a single whole. You are the sharp swords that stood by justice against injustice. Fight the enemies and prove to them, in the name of the people, that you are capable of inflicting defeat upon them, and you will see how the faces of the evildoers will be stained in the mud of defeat no matter where they come from; their names; their property; their fleets; or the expanse of their countries. They will be defeated and Iraq will win; they will be defeated and the Arab nation will emerge victorious; they will be defeated; partition will be defeated and unity will gain victory; the darkness will be defeated and light will gain victory; vice will be defeated and honor will gain victory, God willing. Peace be upon you.

Saddam Speaks to Cabinet,'Kuwait Government'

JN0808190290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 8 Aug 90

["Remarks" by President Saddam Husayn to a joint meeting of the Iraqi Cabinet and the provisional free Kuwait government in Baghdad on 7 August—recorded]

[Text] [Words indistinct] at historical moments when [words indistinct]. We thank God that he has made us become as we should be, one people and one country that is being established to be a support for the Arabs wherever there is an Arab across the Arab homeland and to strengthen our march. We ask God the almighty to safeguard the blessed march and protect the kinfolk from the designs of the evildoers, those who are lying in wait, irrespective of their nationality and their actions, whether they come from the eastern wing of the homeland or from the four corners, and I do not mean anyone in particular. [passage indistinct]

But he who believes that the new Iraq—with all its extensions, from Zakhu to al-Ahmadi, Kuwait, al-Jahra', to Kuwait's al-Jahra', al-Ahmadi with all extensions, to Baghdad, to Diyala, to Nineva—and he who believes that he can encroach on the new march of dignity undertaken by the men in Kuwait and Iraq to move ahead, honest and solid in the service of the Arab nation, are only deluding themselves and are losers, and God is sure to cause their spears to rebound on them. Most welcome to the people of Baghdad and the people of al-Jahra', the people of al-Ahmadi. They are welcome in their hometown Baghdad—Baghdad not built by Iraqis but by Arabs so that it could be their capital. It was built by the Arabs so that it might keep their glory and the [words indistinct] with God's help Baghdad will be the [word indistinct] witness to their present and future.

'Kuwait Government' Officials Get Iraqi Titles

'Ala' 'Ali Deputy Prime Minister

JN0808200190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 90

["Text" of presidential decree No. 232; date not given]

[Text] In implementation of the provisions contained in Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we have decreed the following:

Colonel 'Ala' Husayn 'Ali is appointed deputy prime minister.

Ministers will implement this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 17 Muharram 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 8 August 1990 A.D.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic.

Ministers Named Presidential Advisers

JN0808200390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Aug 90

["Text" of decision by Revolution Command Council, RCC; date not given]

[Text] In accordance with the provisions contained in Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, the below-named are appointed advisers with the grade of ministers at the Presidential Office:
1. Lieutenant Colonel Walid Su'ud Muhammad 'Abdallah.
2. Lieutenant Colonel Fu'ad Husayn Ahmad.
3. Major 'Adil al-'Ali al-Khamis.
4. Major Fadil Haydar al-Wafiqi.
5. Major Mish'al Sa'd al-Hadab.
6. Major Nasir Mansur al-Mindil.
7. Major 'Isam 'Abd-al-Majid Husayn.
8. Major Ya'qub Muhammad Shallal.

Second, the competent agencies shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Editorial Says Merger Decision on Kuwait 'Final'

JN0908102690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that the decision to merge Iraq and Kuwait is an honorable, historic, and national achievement and eternal glorious evidence of the victory of our national will.

In its editorial today, under the headline "The Branch Returned to the Root and the Family Is Reunited," the paper says this is the decision of great Iraq; the decision of righteousness, justice and fairness; the decision of the Revolution Command Council, the Regional Command, and the cadre of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; the decision of the provisional free Kuwait government; and the decision of the National Assembly and the entire people, from the furthest point in the north to the banks of the river in the south under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

The paper adds: The part and branch, Kuwait, has returned to the whole and root, Iraq, in a full, eternal, and inseparable merger of unity. Kuwait has returned to the lap of the generous mother, and the Iraqi people—in their new unified Iraq and one people from Zakhu to Kuwait, al-Jahra', and al-Nida'—have raised their foreheads yet higher.

The paper says that this is an honorable, historic, national achievement that gives to the day of days, the day of great victory, [reference to 8 August 1988, on which a ceasefire with Iran was declared] a new meaning; this day will continue to be a glorious and eternal banner for the victory of our national will.

No right can be wrested without battle, will, steadfastness, and a brave historic leadership, says the paper.

It adds: The day of victory was the culmination of all the days of the battle and the fruit of all the sacrifices. Likewise, the day on which the part and the branch, Kuwait, returned to the whole and the root, Iraq, is the fruit of the day of the call [as received], and a historic achievement toward the primary Arab goal—unity. Through this achievement a dear Iraqi part returns to its generous mother; Iraq restores a cherished part of its people, land, and sea; and the maps drawn up by the colonialists, who intended to weaken and fragment the nation and tamper with its destiny, are torn up forever.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This historic decision puts things in their proper perspective and is based on the facts of history and on the values and principles. Furthermore, it weakens the hopes of the losers and villains in the Arab homeland and abroad. This historic decision would not have been possible had it not been for the intelligent leadership of President Saddam Husayn, who is leading Iraq toward its opportunity that emerged brightly when the door to the sky burst open on 2 August. Great Iraq realizes that the historic achievements in peoples' lives are not free gifts. They are wrested in the battlefield. Here are new battles between complete belief and complete atheism. Who is more capable of seizing and benefiting from the opportunity than the people of al-Qadisiyah and their historic leadership? When Iraq makes its decision and restores a dear and cherished part of its land, people and sea, it—as stressed by the leader of victories and achievements, Saddam Husayn—neither is committing aggression against anyone nor inviting it. Iraq has no ambitions in anyone's territories or wealth. Between Iraq and its southern parts there is a special relationship.

AL-THAWRAH adds: At the same time—and with all ability, righteousness, firmness, and resolve—Iraq tells all villains and plotters that all fleets, fighter planes, and centers of brute force on earth, whether inside or outside the Arab homeland, can never shake the palm trees of al-Basrah, al-Qadisiyah, or Kuwait, whether the enemies threaten to use them or actually use them. The battle calls for every sacrifice by Iraq, Arab militants and fighters, and all honorable men of the nation. The blood of our martyrs will burn all the plotters. Iraq will remain dear, and the faces of the villains will be soiled with defeat, regardless of their names or fleets. They will be defeated and Iraq and the Arab nation will emerge triumphant. Fragmentation and filth will be beaten by honor and unity. The historic decision made by Iraq yesterday is final, and it is for the sake of freedom, Jerusalem, Palestine, dignity, and might. Those who are trying to attack us will regret it and will curse their bad fortune. Since things are still in the beginning stages, Iraq is warning those who are trying to rally the forces of evil; they must stop their unjust acts because continuing the treacherous plan will make us closely monitor the role of every villain. He will be called to account and those involved will pay a heavy price. If the battle breaks out, it will result in the fall of some heads and shoulders and the loss of some ribbons and ranks.

The paper adds: Since things are only beginning, Iraq is generous and God is merciful and tolerant. Iraq can defeat the enemies; it is vigilant and cannot be misled by the U.S. markings on Zionist fighter planes. The Iraqi people, together with all the sons of the Arab nation, realize the objective of the conspiracy and its participants. They know that this conspiracy, which is trying to

hide under many disguises, has only one objective: Military, political, and economic aggression by Washington, Tel Aviv, and their tools against Iraq, which rejects capitulation and bargaining and refuses to concede its national rights and the rights of its Arab nation. When the enemies around Iraq increase it is because they know Iraq guarantees the Arabs' victory, awakening, restoration of rights and role, and maintenance of honor and dignity.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Iraq, with its ever-victorious leader, God willing, and with its people, army, and the free men of its nation, is able to score victory in this battle, and is able to break the links of economic blockade. The laurels and ranks of honor will boast, and Iraq, with its free men and women from Zakhu to Kuwait, will keep its head up straight. It will remain dignified and fortified and the banners of might will fly high. Iraq will march forward and be the base for a new beginning by all free Arabs under the historic, brave leader Saddam Husayn, the symbol of the nation's might and glory.

RCC Reacts to Bush Statement on Saudi Arabia

JN0808190190 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1806 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Statement by Revolution Command Council spokesman on U.S. President Bush's televised 8 August statement announcing the dispatch of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia]

[Text] The U.S. President has announced the dispatch of U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia at its request. He claims that he is sending U.S. troops to protect Saudi Arabia against an alleged Iraqi threat.

Iraq categorically denies these false claims. U.S. Government quarters have chosen to propagate and repeat these claims despite the fact that his excellency the president leader asked the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad to convey a message to the U.S. President telling him that Iraq is not targeting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that what happened in Kuwait is completely different from the other situations because Kuwait was a part of Iraq, and also because there are special historical ties between them, the likes of which are not found with other states. Iraq signed a nonaggression treaty with Saudi Arabia. It will respect this treaty. The leader president also affirmed that Iraq, for its part, maintains cordial relations with Saudi Arabia.

The spokesman added: Our conclusions since the beginning were that the United States has propagated these claims and insisted on them as a pretext to commit aggression against Iraq.

The spokesman expressed his regret that officials in Saudi Arabia were affected by these false U.S. claims, affirming that Iraq is ready to explain any matter related to the current situation that is seen as ambiguous by anyone so that there will be no misunderstandings or unjustified concern that can be used by the United States as an excuse to commit aggression on Iraq and achieve its wicked purposes in the region.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: All military arrangements undertaken by Iraq are for defense, in anticipation of the imperialist-American-Zionist aggression on it. Iraq has no plan to embark on any military attack on anyone unless it is to defend ourselves, the homeland, and the nation.

Group Threatens Retaliation if Territory Attacked

JN0808141690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 8 Aug (INA)—The General Command of the Arab Strike Divisions [Al-Firaq al-'Arabiyyah al-Daribah] has stated that it will deal the most lethal blows against the interests and institutions of the United States and its collaborators in the region in retaliation for any eventual attack against Iraq or against free and nationalist Kuwait.

In a statement it issued today, the organization said that any military interference in our Arab region against Iraq, its national regime, or its president will be fiercely confronted by the Arab Strike Divisions and the Arab masses from the Gulf to the ocean.

Armed Forces Communique Warns Israel

JN0808183790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1731 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command spokesman on 8 August, place not given—read by military spokesman]

[Text] It has been made unquestionably clear to us that while the United States is fervently seeking to strike at specific targets inside Iraq in implementation of its arrogant, whimsical imperialist policy, and its deluded belief that in this way it can terrorize Iraq and deter it from its honorable national and pan-Arab objectives, it has coordinated, in a detailed manner, with the Zionist entity, who has been occupying the land of the Arabs for a long time with its approval, and has coordinated to the extent of precise details. They have divided aggressive duties among themselves, the United States having failed to drag other countries into implementing these schemes.

Among the information, which God and good people have helped us to obtain, is that Israel has painted its planes and put on them the signs of American planes. Some of its pilots, who will carry out the aggressive missions, have been provided with American names and identification cards to escape Iraq's direct military reaction against Israel to avoid revealing the intermingling of documents and goals in this aggressive campaign, which

U.S. imperialism began a long time ago, aided by the specialized Zionist [illegible] and agencies distributed throughout the world.

We are addressing an Iraqi warning, whose seriousness and capability is well known. We reiterate the statements made by leaders and politicians, and reaffirm that we will respond to any hostile action of the kind by Israel, demonstrating capability similar to our response to the United States, wherever Iraqi hands can reach these targets, so that all will know that Iraq does not fear idols. Those who use darkness and deception as a cover for their intentions and activities will regret their actions.

The Arabs will triumph. Iraq will triumph, God willing. He who warns is pardoned. God is great.

17 Muharram, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 8 August 1990. 08 Aug 1852z mkb

Oil Exports to Soviet Union Halt

NC0808132390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Tunis, 8 Aug (MENA)—Arab sources in Tunis have reported that Iraqi oil, which flowed through a pipeline across Turkey and has now been halted, was used to carry oil to the Soviet Union in repayment of Iraq's debts to Moscow.

These sources said that Iraq has halted the flow of oil through this pipeline because of the Soviet Union's position regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Turkey decided yesterday to ban the shipment of Iraqi oil from its ports on the Mediterranean Sea. [passage omitted]

'All' Foreigners 'May' Be Released Tonight

AU0808112890 Rome ANSA in English 1036 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] (ANSA) Nicosia, August 8—All the foreigners caught up in the Gulf conflict, including up to 300 Italians, may well be allowed to bus into Jordan tonight, according to latest reports arriving here from the Gulf area.

In a first indication that the foreigners may be allowed to leave, a statement from the Jordanian Information Ministry said that they could be on their way within the next few hours. Jordan is generally rated here as being close to Iraqi thinking.

Official confirmation had not been received from Iraq late Tuesday evening and all communications with Iraq and Kuwait have been interrupted since the Iraqi invasion of its small Gulf neighbour on Friday.

Italian diplomatic sources say that at the time of the invasion there were about 200-250 Italian citizens in Iraq and a few score in Kuwait.

The only route left out of Iraq and Kuwait is the overland one into Jordan. This involves a long bus ride of about 12 hours through the desert, which local experts say is virtually impassable during daytime due to the heat.

Baghdad To Honor Kuwaiti Financial Obligations

JN0908105490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1026 GMT Aug 90

["Unscheduled statement"]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided the following: In pursuance of paragraph "A" of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided as follows:

1. Now that the full merger unity between Iraq and Kuwait has been established on 2 August 1990, the RCC announces that Iraq shall be committed to all Kuwait's financial and economic obligations toward all countries, public or private institutions, and foreign companies, whether these be rights to Kuwait or true debts on it. This, however, should not be in conflict with Iraq's sovereignty, security, and pan-Arab obligations, and should be based on reciprocal treatment and respect of opposite obligations.

2. This decision shall be published in the official gazette and concerned parties shall carry it out.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Minister Says Strong Economy Will Break Boycott

JN0808213390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, the Day of Days [date as published] (INA)—Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and acting finance minister, has said that the strength and power of the developing and living Iraqi economy, as well as the sweeping mass support for the unique leadership of his excellency President Saddam Husayn, are capable of thwarting the unjust economic boycott resolution against Iraq spearheaded by the United States.

In a statement to INA and Baghdad television, the minister stated that it was inevitable that this hostile resolution would be broken and thwarted as similar decisions against Iraq adopted during its confrontation of the aggression over eight years defending the eastern flank of the Arab homeland had also been thwarted.

The minister said that the strength of the Iraqi economy manifested itself in the fact that during the first few months of this year Iraq had repaid $5.25 billion in debts in accordance with a scheduled annual program. He indicated that this repayment program had been automatically halted with the issuance of the hostile economic boycott resolution.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih declared that Iraq had effective means to increase its domestic production and to

raise its effectiveness. He added that this argument was substantiated by the previous experience of the Iraqi individual. He went on to say: Under similar acts of aggression, the Iraqi individual was the tool of the revolution. He was also its direct instrument for strengthening the economy and thwarting the schemes that sought to shake his free will and independent decision making.

The minister referred to the great transformation of the agricultural sector in this phase, considering that Iraq was an importer of agricultural and food products up to the year 1980. He added that the signs of self-sufficiency have begun to appear, thanks to the unlimited support given to this sector by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to obtain food security.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih noted that Iraq, the cradle of old civilizations, has always proved that it is capable of securing its food requirements under the bleakest conditions and regardless of the population density involved. He said that the Iraqis during the Abbasid period were more numerous than they are right now. However, they managed to secure their food requirements through the ideal exploitation of their capabilities and natural resources, the minister added.

The minister asserted that the strength and power of the Iraqi economy is capable of breaking and overcoming this hostile and unjust resolution and any other resolution that seeks to harm Iraqi interests and to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih said that while showing its venomous fangs under these circumstances against Iraq—a peaceful and freedom- loving country characterized by independent decision making, resolve, and determination—the United States is forgetting its invasion of Vietnam, Panama, and Chile, and its support for Zionism in its invasion of Lebanon and Palestine.

The minister said that this position will only increase the Iraqi people's determination and resolve to continue the course of action charted by the engineer of Iraq's new resurgence and the leader of its march, His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn.

Muhammad Mahdi Salih said that the United States and its satellite states, which endorsed the hostile boycott of great Iraq, will inflict the gravest material damage on their peoples as a result of this resolution. Furthermore, he noted that this resolution will also cause the closure of numerous plants and firms in these states because their owners will be deprived of the chance to export their products and commodities—a matter that will inflict grave damage on the Western economy.

Arabs, Yemenis Volunteer To Defend Territory

JN0908001390 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Sanaa, Aug. 8, INA—Large numbers of Arab and Yemeni citizens reported to the Iraqi embassy in Sanaa and the Iraqi consulate in Aden to volunteer in defence of Iraq and the revolution of Kuwait against any aggressor.

The crowds of volunteers who are standing in long lines since the early morning before the embassy demanded to be transferred so that to [as received] obtain the honour of supporting the two revolutions of Iraq and Kuwait and to stand by the Iraqi Armed Forces in their confrontation against all the attempts aiming at impinging the revolution in Kuwait.

In statements to INA correspondent in Sanaa the volunteers confirmed that the Iraqi Armed Forces response to the call of the Kuwaiti revolution leaders is an attitude springing from the Arab orginality and the principled and pan-Arab pursuit followed by the Iraqi political leadership at the head of which is President Saddam Husayn in supporting the new revolution.

The volunteers have also expressed their strong denunciation for attempts of some imperialist forces to interfere in the internal affairs of the Arab nation.

On the other hand the Iraqi embassy in Sanaa and the consulate in Aden received hundreds of telephone calls from intellectuals, military and tribesmen expressing their determined stand by Iraq in its legitimate defence of its land and the revolution of Kuwait.

Ankara Embassy Denies Tariq 'Aziz Executed

TA0908140890 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1345 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Ankara (AA)—The Iraqi Embassy in Ankara has denied reports that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz has been executed.

The Iraqi Embassy's press attache, Sabah Muhyeddin, in reply to a question by an ANATOLIA AGENCY correspondent, said:

There were rumors that 'Aziz was executed two days ago. Therefore, 'Aziz held a series of contacts at his ministry the same day and the public was informed about these contacts. Furthermore, he is currently with some journalists in Baghdad.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi Embassy in Cairo has also denied rumors that 'Aziz was either executed or removed from office.

A statement issued by the embassy because of Egyptian press reports says that rumors on the issue were spread by the United States and Israel within the framework of their campaign against Iraq.

Foreign press agencies have, for the last few days, been reporting that Tariq 'Aziz has been executed because of his opposition to Saddam Husayn's occupation of Kuwait.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian Foreign Ministry official, in a statement to ANATOLIA AGENCY, said that they have

no official information on Tariq 'Aziz. However, the fact that 'Aziz is not among the representatives sent to various countries following the crisis reinforces rumors that there are differences of views between Saddam Husayn and 'Aziz.

PLF's 'Abbas Hails 'Glorious Iraqi Victory'

JN0908101090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2020 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a congratulatory message on the occasion of the day of the great victory from Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], the secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF]. The following is text of the message:

On the day of the glorious Iraqi victory, which revives hope in those Arab hearts capable of making firm Arab decisions and confronting the enemies, we extend to your excellency the president our warmest congratulations and express our firm stand by your side as you lead the Arab nation's battle for existence outside the circles of fear and humiliation.

Thus, you have destroyed the bases of retrogression on the road to a comprehensive pan-Arab unity and awakening. We view the enemy's military buildup led by the odious U.S. imperialism and its collaborators in the region, especially at this time, against victorious Arab Iraq and its mighty revolutionary steps as the greatest proof of its righteousness, its noble pan-Arab stance, and its correct policy.

As we volunteer as fighters for our pan-Arab causes, we say that no military buildup, no matter how arrogant, would stop us from taking actions and standing firmly against our enemies for the sake of justice and pan-Arab dignity.

The brave, revolutionary Arab spirit must rise over defeatism and hesitation. The fate of the nation's enemies is defeat and extinction. From our position in the forward trenches of confrontation with our Israeli enemy, we proclaim in the name of the land and those who carried its holy stones that we are together in the one battle; the battle of the present and the future for liberating Arab Palestine and defending the honor of the Arab nation, its rights and legitimate dignity.

We bless your decisive victory and esteem your historic resolutions toward unity, pride and progress.

UNIIMOG Commander Leaves for Tehran 8 Aug

JN0808114990 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Aug (INA)—Yugoslav General Slavko Jovic, commander of the UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group [UNIIMOG], left Baghdad today for Tehran.

The UNIIMOG commander's visit to Iraq is one of his shuttle trips between Baghdad and Tehran to supervise the work of the UN observers.

Some Food Exports to Kuwait Exempt From Customs

JN0708153090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1428 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] A responsible Ministry of Trade source has told INA that fruit and vegetable exports to Kuwait will be exempted from the restrictions of export licenses and customs classifications. The ministry asked all exporters to take note of this after taking all measures to hasten the export process.

It is worth noting here that Iraq, in meeting the wishes of the provisional free Kuwait government, has decided to allow Iraqi exporters to export fruits and vegetables to Kuwait as an exception to the applicable instructions.

Government 'Aware' of Possible Iraqi Attack

TA0808161790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Israeli sources believe that the Iraqi president does not intend to extend his moves toward Saudi Arabia, but that he plans to use it as a pawn. The sources pointed out that in case of escalation, the possibility that the Iraqi president would attack Israel should not be ruled out, but Israel is well aware of this.

IDF Spokesman Calls Saddam's Warning 'Lie'

TA0808183890 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1827 GMT 8 Aug 90

["IDF spokesman's announcement" read by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky—live]

[Text] We have the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's official reaction to the warning we heard at the start of this newscast, and I quote: The Iraqi announcement is yet another lie disseminated by Saddam Husayn which is evidently intended to advance his goals. Israel believes the import of Saddam Husayn's statement is that he is trying to link Israel to the conflict in order to improve his standing in the Arab world.

Israel believes that Saddam Husayn is aware of Israel's power to react but may still use rash measures, possibly even acts of desperation. He has in the past taken several miscalculated steps. This is a man who uses a policy of terror on the political and regional planes. This is what Israel thinks.

Arens Says Iraqi Move 'Not Impossible'

TA0808190790 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1822 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky in the defense minister's office on 8 August—recorded]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Mr. Defense Minister, in view of the increasing U.S. involvement, do you anticipate a military conflagration in the Persian Gulf?

[Arens] I do not think so, I hope not. Of course, with Saddam Husayn one cannot tell. I think that he would hesitate to attack Saudi Arabia as U.S. forces are deployed on its soil and in light of the fact that he can expect severe retaliation if he dares to attack Saudi Arabia. I presume that at this stage the Americans will not attack the Iraqis in Kuwait but would rather try to rely on economic or diplomatic moves to bring about Saddam Husayn's withdrawal from that country.

[Shlonsky] Do you think economic measures will suffice?

[Arens] Once again, with Saddam Husayn as the main player it is extremely hard to tell. Such measures would definitely have been enough for others. I think it depends, first of all, on whether this move is firm and unanimous and is shared by all Western countries. President Bush has already scored a major achievement in enlisting the Japanese in this move. This is a change from normal Japanese policy toward the Middle East and the oil-producing countries. The Japanese have sided with Bush and if the French and the British as well as the EC also support the United States, I believe there is a good chance economic pressure will bring him down.

[Shlonsky] Are you disappointed that the United States has not appealed to Israel for help and has not even asked permission to land its aircraft at Israeli airfields?

[Arens] No, I am not disappointed. I think all of us understand that our good ties and the strategic cooperation that has existed since 1983 notwithstanding, when they try to station forces in Saudi Arabia and enlist such Arab countries as Egypt to cooperate in such an operation, the Americans prefer not to get Israel embroiled in it.

[Shlonsky] Had the United States sought such landing permits, would it have received a positive response?

[Arens] That depends. Any time our security is involved, each time we have a commitment toward the United States, our response will be positive.

[Shlonsky] With your permission, I want to discuss Jordan and the conflict. If Jordan opens the port of al-'Aqabah and, in the case of an economic boycott, permits boats to unload and transport their cargo to Iraq on land, how will Israel react?

[Arens] This is a hypothetical question that I believe is not relevant because if all the access routes to Iraq are blocked—through the Persian Gulf, for example—then I think al-'Aqabah will simply not be relevant for the Iraqis.

[Shlonsky] How is Israel preparing for any moves Saddam Husayn may possibly make—acts of desperation or rash acts? What will Israel do if he decides to direct some of his forces toward Israel in this special situation?

[Arens] This is not impossible; we have heard his threats and know that he has followed through on them, as he did with Kuwait. I am convinced, however, that he knows Israel is neither Kuwait nor Saudi Arabia. That is why I believe that the likelihood of his doing so is not high.

[Shlonsky] Has any message been sent through Western elements or Egypt to Saddam Husayn on the matter in the past few days?

[Arens] I sent a very clear message through you, the media, saying that we will not accept the entry of Iraqi forces into Jordan.

[Shlonsky] Thank you very much, Mr. Minister.

Arens' Spokesman Denies Forces in Persian Gulf

TA0808194290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Dani Nave, the defense minister's spokesman, has said that Saddam Husayn's claim lacks any basis, that there is no truth in it, and that there is no Israeli presence in the Persian Gulf whatsoever.

'Sources' on Possible Iraqi Missile Attack

TA0908043590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 9 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Political sources in Jerusalem said Israel is preparing for Iraqi threats and the possibility of a surprise, our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports. According to evaluations in Jerusalem, Iraq might initiate a missile attack on Israel. The reports on Iraq's aggressive intentions toward Israel are based the missile infrastructure in Iraq, and Israel is one of its targets. The prime minister is closely following events, it was reported. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 9 August carries a report by David Ze'ev who notes that "Israeli officials believe the Iraqi military statement last night was aimed at garneriang Arab support for Iraq against the one enemy, the United States and Israel, and to bolster Arab unity in favor of Baghdad as an emergency Arab summit convenes this evening in Cairo."

[The report also notes that "diplomatic sources in Jerusalem say there has been no Israeli-U.S. coordination, although defense officials note that Washington has been in touch and has briefed Israel on its movements in the area."

[Ze'ev concludes his report by remarking that "Prime Minister Shamir has called on government ministers abroad to return home immediately, as a result of the latest developments in the crisis."]

Prime Minister Affirms Defense Capability

TA0908083690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said anyone who plots to attack Israel should know that it has the capability, willpower, and preparedness to defend itself with great determination. Anyone who tries to attack Israel might incur a grave disaster on itself. The State of Israel is now facing an aggressive threat to its security and well-being; it is not ignoring these threats. Israel is not deterred and is certainly not weakening. Mr. Shamir also said that all Israeli citizens know the nation is strong and simply standing still in a region rampant with dangers and tensions. The defense forces are alert and prepared to prevent any danger to the people and the state.

The prime minister also said Israel has no intention of attacking any of its neighbors, but it will know how to deal with anybody who tries to harm it.

Our correspondent reports that Mr. Shamir made these remarks in his Jerusalem office to the forum of mayors from development towns. Mr. Shamir stressed that the meeting is taking place despite the political and security developments in order to show the people that despite danger and tension, life goes on as usual.

Avi Pazner Asserts 'Israel Is No Kuwait'

TA0908103290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] The prime minister's media adviser, Avi Pazner, says Israel is taking the recent threats from Iraq very seriously. But, he told reporters at the Prime Minister's Office this morning that Iraq must know that Israel is no Kuwait.

[Begin recording] [Pazner] Israel does not have aggressive intentions against anyone. We have stated this over and over again. At the same time, Israel stands firm and is ready to meet with determination any challenge to its security. I think that everybody understands that Israel is no Kuwait.

[Unidentified correspondent] May I ask, sir, looking at the military aspect, how serious do you view the possibility of some sort of real military conflagration developing out of all this whole affair?

[Pazner] Look, when there is a tension like this in the Gulf you always must take into consideration that there can be military escalation. And, living in a region like the Middle East we must take that into consideration. I repeat: The threat does not come from Israel, Israel is the one threatened. But, we will know to meet—as we have in the past—any challenge to our security.

[Correspondent] Have the Americans asked Israel for anything other than consultations at the moment?

[Pazner] Absolutely not, and I do not think there is any need for that. Everybody knows our position. We are friends, allies of the United States, but the United States has not asked anything from us at this point. We have not been asked to do anything and, apart from consulting, there is absolutely no Israeli activity going on as far as we are concerned. [end recording]

Ben-Aharon on Possible Iraqi Military Action

TA0908063290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Gad Becker—live]

[Text] [Becker] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Becker] The question is very specific, very tough, but I believe it must be asked today: In your view and to the

best of your knowledge, is there an immediate danger of an Iraqi military action against Israel?

[Ben-Aharon] It is difficult to make an evaluation because in a country like Iraq the decision is made by a single person, the one on top of the pyramid. That is one of the difficulties we generally have in our relations with the Arab world. There is no democracy there, there is no expression of the people's desires, but the noose is tightening around Saddam Husayn. The dependence of Saddam and Iraq on the red flag of Israel is part of the longtime Arab tactic to ensure Arab unity and arouse Arab patriotism by pointing to Israel as the enemy.

[Becker] Do you view his declaration more as a tactical, political, diplomatic move and less as being immediate militarily significant?

[Ben-Aharon] At this stage, that is how it seems. But as I said before, one cannot know how the man will act under pressure and there is no doubt that the pressure on him is already working and will increase when the forces of the various countries complete their deployment around Iraq.

[Becker] Another question we would like to have answered as specifically as possible, if possible, is: To Israel's knowledge, are there any signs that Iraq intends to carry out the threat, not just using words?

[Ben-Aharon] Are you talking about the threat against Israel?

[Becker] Yes, and if it has found any practical expression in the field with any sort of preparations.

[Ben-Aharon] The media have already discovered the fact that there is a massive deployment by the Iraqi army in the south and southwest, that is, opposite the Saudi border. If one studies the map, however, one can see that the further west and south one goes it reaches the Jordanian border. Our defense minister, therefore, found it necessary to transmit a message saying that we will not be able to tolerate a foreign country's entrance into Jordanian territory because it would constitute a threat to us. Beyond that, we cannot say anything clearly because we must recall that Saddam Husayn and his army have acquired many weapons systems, including missiles and various types of nonconventional arms. We must be aware of and prepared for the dangerous possibility that at any moment he could decide to use one of these weapons against Israel.

[Becker] So what is the practical conclusion? Are we in a bind? On the one hand, Israel is making enormous efforts to show that at this stage it has no intentions of becoming involved in military moves against Iraq. On the other, there might be a need for a certain level of preparedness.

[Ben-Aharon] This is exactly right. Both things are necessary. We cannot be isolated from events taking place around us, especially as such dramatic events are taking place and as the Arabs intend to try to use us as a pretext for forming a united front. On the other hand, Israel announced more than once that it has no aggressive intentions against any Arab country. We said that in the past, because as you recall, Saddam Husayn has already threatened to set half of the State of Israel on fire and reiterated his threats on many occasions. We found it necessary, therefore, to clarify that we have no such intentions. We said the same thing about King Husayn, who from time to time warns about the danger he faces from Israel. I believe the Arab public in general, and Arab leaders specifically, know that there are no such intentions. But it is easy for them to point to Israel as the target because in that way they can justify all types of moves that they are planning to execute within the pan-Arab framework.

[Becker] Your remarks leave the impression that it is still too early to talk here at home about an emergency situation.

[Ben-Aharon] It is early to talk about an emergency situation, but the prime minister receives current reports from the defense minister and Israel's intelligence community. We are alert, and there must be such alertness.

Officials Discuss Response to Saddam's Moves

PM0808141790

[Editorial Report] London ITV Television Network in English at 1800 GMT on 7 August carries in its "Channel 4 News" program interviews with Colonel Ranaan Gissin of the Israeli Defense Force, Deputy Foreign Minister Benyamn Netanyahu, and former Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by correspondent Liz Donnelly during a video report from Israel's border with Jordan on the possibility of an Iraqi invasion of Israel.

Donnelly says: "If the expansion of its leader Saddam Husayn isn't checked, the defense forces here believe he could decide to send his army in this direction." Gissin says: "If the invasion of Kuwait is any indication, it can be overnight. And in Kuwait he had to move some 500 tanks, and he put them on tank transporters and in no time, in 48 hours, they were there on the border. The distance between his forward deployments in Iraq and the border here are 250 miles. This means that in the matter of 24 hours, those 500 or 600 tanks on transporters can be deployed along the Jordanian border. And clearly, that is not the kind of contingency we will allow to happen."

Donnelly continues: "The Israeli Army views its border with Jordan as the most vulnerable because much of it's so close to the main centers of population. It's in Israel's interest to stress the danger it faces." Netanyahu says: "We are concerned with Israel's borders, with Israel's security. We have said that if Iraqi troops were to enter Jordan we would act. And we mean what we say."

Donnelly asks: "In what way would you act?" Netanyahu replies: "I don't think I should spell it out. I think we have to reserve the method of action, but I have to say

that we, we will view that as a grave threat against Israel and we will take action accordingly."

Donnelly concludes: "Overall Israel has the military advantage, though as yet no one has an effective defense against missiles." Rabin states: "By firing ten or thirty missiles you don't destroy and you don't conquer a country. And therefore, Israel's response can be ten times, if not hundred times more on Iraq." Donnelly asks: "You mean Israel could use nuclear weapons?" Rabin replies: "You said it, I didn't."

Levi Praises Bush's Handling of Gulf Crisis

TA0908105190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi praised President Bush for the way he is dealing with the Persian Gulf crisis. Mr. Levi told U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter that the United States is acting with great wisdom. The people of Israel stand by the United States and President Bush and hopes he will be able to uproot this evil.

Editorial Lauds U.S. Position

TA0908074790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "America Wakes Up"]

[Text] Hats off to President Bush and his administration! Their determination, political sagacity and adherence to principle have brought about international ostracism of Iraq for its indefensible, and now official, seizure of Kuwait. American military forces are now positioned in Saudi Arabia. Economic and diplomatic sanctions against Iraq have been imposed by the EC, Turkey, Japan, China and even Switzerland. For the first time since the Korean war, the American president and his secretaries of state and defense, vigorously pursuing a moral American foreign policy, have succeeded in rallying the international community to oppose barbaric behavior.

America's intervention in the latest chapter of the interminable Gulf crisis is a welcome departure from the timidity which has haunted american foreign policy since the end of the Vietnamese war. The response to Iraqi aggression marks the first time that the U.S. has been able to act for international security without the fear of massive Soviet retaliation dogging its every step. It presages a new American confidence in the importance and justice of its role as guarantor of world peace.

The firm American response may also connote a recognition on the part of the administration that its previous Middle East policy had been woefully naive. Guided by the wish to effect a European-style thaw in relations among the parties to the various conflicts in the region, the U.S., after enabling Saddam to win his war against Iran, took Iraq off the list of terror-sponsoring states and awarded it trade and loan guarantees. A similar policy of appeasement led to the sanitization of the PLO, which was transformed into a potential partner in the peace process. The Iraqi aggressions has shattered this quixotic policy by establishing beyond question the incorrigible nature of both the Iraqi regime and its enthusiastic ally, the PLO.

In Saddam Husayn, the U.S. faces a ruthless enemy. Having bludgeoned a defenseless state into submission, Saddam is determined to secure his conquest by taking hostages. At least 40 Americans have been detained by Iraqi forces, and 3,000 other are trapped in the country, forcing the administration to bring its counter-terrorism team into the decision-making loop. In this context, President Bush's pledge to safeguard American lives is of particular importance.

The role of the PLO in the elimination of Kuwait is illuminating. While most of the rest of the world recoiled in horror from the sight of so crude a use of force, the PLO actually took part in the conquest by supplying Iraq with the intelligence, apparently gathered by Palestinian residents of Kuwait, it needed to subjugate the country with lightning speed. The pro-PLO media have hailed the invasion, seeing in it a harbinger of renewed war between the Arab states and Israel. The PLO's collusion with Iraq in the destruction of a peaceful country shows yet again that the terrorist organization has no stake in peace.

Perhaps the most encouraging development has been the active participation of Turkey and Saudi Arabia in the U.S. campaign. Both states have closed the pipelines through their territories which convey Iraqi oil to world markets. Both have cooperated in the American troop build-up in preparation for possible action against Iraq. For Turkey, cooperation with the West against an Arab state is a major departure from its policy of the past three decades. Saudi Arabia's acceptance of a huge American force, including hundreds of F15s and B52s, is just as impressive. Abandoning its traditional fear of giving the appearance of dependence on the U.S., it seems to have finally concluded that abstaining from the pursuit of international justice can actually be dangerous to one's health.

It is to be hoped that Saudi Arabia, as well as other states in the region, will view this cooperation with the West as a precedent for more enlightened relations with Israel. Surely they must finally realize that this country is not, and never has been, a threat to their existence as is their Moslem Arab brother in Baghdad.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. on Regional Problems

TA0908095190 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Aug 90 p 8

[Mote Bassok commentary: "The United States Is Not in the Mood for Local Problems"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] What does the postponement of the Baker-Levi meeting mean to Israel? Both

Washington and Jerusalem believe that the meeting will eventually be held only at the end of September when David Levi goes to New York to attend the UN General Assembly annual session. Israeli officials believe that the events in the Persian Gulf have decreased the importance Washington, the entire Arab world, and perhaps even the Soviet Union attach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and have relegated it to a very low place in the international agenda, and not only for the immediate future. The Americans, particularly Baker—who until less than two years ago had never dealt with complex international relations—realized that in an era of international detente and of one big international superpower the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a local affair which does not merit or necessitate the investment of so much effort. At best, if both sides are interested, the United States is better off sticking its nose into a problem it can solve. At worst, this is a problem that does not affect the world's peace or energy economy, a problem that does not carry the smell of oil. Hence, the Americans say, let the Israelis and the Palestinians deal with it, let them stew in their own juice. Northern Ireland comes to mind in this context. Well, have the Americans or the EC ever stuck their nose into that problem?

Therefore, Israeli officials believe, relations between Israel and the United States will very soon go back to the good old days, and the situation will not have changed significantly if and when the problem with Iraq is settled. As was the case in the aftermath of the Reagan plan (of 1 September 1982), the Americans will only be too glad to forget all about Baker's five points and his question and clarification (which caused the dispute that led to the unity government's fall), and file them away in the archive where they keep all the Middle East initiatives.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler made this evident for the first time last Monday when she said: "Obviously, there cannot be peace in the Middle East without peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors." This is the same formula Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and the Likud used to justify the disbandment of the unity government. Binyamin Netanyahu also keeps uttering the same words, that there can be no peace with the Palestinians in the absence of peace between Israel and all its neighbors. In other words: Before rushing into talks with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo, the world should see to it that peace is attained between Israel and the Arab countries. This is an elegant formula to justify the political stalemate in the Middle East, which the Americans adopted for the first time last Monday.

Clearly, the Bush-Baker administration has in the last few days felt frustrated with the positions of the Arab countries. Saudi Arabia—perhaps Saddam Husayn's next target—took a long time before it agreed to join the international action against its staunchest enemy, and would have not done so had it not been for U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's personal softening touch. King Husayn and Jordan, long believed to be one of the strongest pro-U.S. bastions in the region, are today one of the staunchest supporters in the world of "the butcher from Baghdad." Egypt, on which the United States wagered so much in the last two years, has also been taking its time saying—let alone doing—anything against Iraq. Palestinians in the diaspora ('Arafat), the territories (the leadership and the population), and in Israel who are constantly clamoring against the Israeli occupation jumped for joy and enthusiastically celebrated the invasion of little Kuwait by a foreign aggressive force. Ironically, it was only yesterday that many of those same Palestinians, including the PLO, were living off that same Kuwaiti money.

Officials in Jerusalem believe that the day is not too far off when the White House grants Israel the $400-million loan to absorb Soviet immigrants. They also think that, contrary to all fears, the administration and congress will approve—and in no way reduce—the sum of $1.8 billion in military aid to Israel for 1992. In the last few days Israeli political circles have been saying that those on Capitol Hill who thought the time had come to reduce aid have now been persuaded by Saddam Husayn's action that the Israeli Army needs each and every penny.

Husayn Holds News Conference on Gulf Crisis

JN0808204890 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1918 GMT 8 Aug 90

["Full recording" of news conference held by King Husayn with unidentified reporters at the Royal Court in Amman on 8 August]

[Text] [Husayn] Ladies and gentlemen and friends: I am very happy to have this opportunity in these difficult challenging and decisive times in this part of the world, to meet you and welcome you to Jordan to assure you that we will do everything we can to make you feel at home and amongst friends, and to lay before you all that would enable you to carry out your duties and your responsibilities in telling the world the facts as they develop and as they evolve. I have received many requests from many of my friends here to meet with me personally. As you can appreciate, events are rapidly evolving in the area. I shall hopefully in the times ahead seek any and every opportunity to respond to your requests. However, since it seems that possibly tomorrow we shall be attending an Arab summit, I thought of the need to meet you and to tell that we know how important your role is, and that we will keep in touch. Now I am more than happy to respond to any questions you may have, and the first question I have is I hope that everybody can hear me. Well, let me try.

[Reporter] Where will the summit meet, sir?

[Husayn] I believe the suggestion is for the summit to meet in Cairo, and as for the exact time or arrangements, I am not quite sure, but it is meant to be within the next 24 or 48 hours, possibly tomorrow.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Husayn] Jordan is a member of the United Nations, and understands fully its obligations under the Charter. And I believe how this recent resolution physically is to be adopted is under study now by the Government of Jordan.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, will Iraq attend the summit?

[Husayn] I hope it would. I am not quite sure at the moment exactly who will be attending, but we have been in touch, a number of us, that is Arab leaders in the recent period and over the question of a summit as of yesterday, and I hope that it will be attended by all countries within the Arab world.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Husayn] I believe it was the idea of quite a few. As you know I have been working on the idea of getting the Arab world to resolve Arab problems and in particular this recent one. I have been involved since the very beginning in attempting to attain this objective, and there were ideas of a summit, or a group of us moving more rapidly to address the problem at an earlier stage. We are aware of the developments in that regard. However, actions and reactions are escalating and the dangers are growing with the passage of every moment, and I believe that this has brought about a feeling by my colleagues and myself that such a summit ought to be held as soon as possible.

[Reporter] Has this announcement been made in other capitals at the same time?

[Husayn] This is maybe an announcement that might have been made by some or reported, but I am telling you that it is happening.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] How do you assess the Iraqi announcement that it is basically annexing Kuwait? How does this affect the global situation? How does it affect Jordan directly towards your view of the whole situation?

[Husayn] First of all let me say, as far as Jordan's attitude is concerned, I clarify this point before one and all. Jordan believes in the Arab League Charter, is a signatory to it, and also is a member of the United Nations. And Jordan has always stood for upholding the principle of the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war. I have said that time and again. And Jordan stands by this principle which it upholds, which it has upheld time and again in the past, wherever this applies.

As far as the situation in this area is concerned, I believe that I had the chance earlier on to speak of my worries and concerns, A., over the absence of an Arab effort to resolve this problem within the Arab family, an area I have tried to address from the very beginning, and B., that an escalation of actions and reactions predictable under such circumstances could lead us to the verge of disaster, not afflicting some, but maybe all of us in this part of the world and maybe the world as a whole.

As far as the position of Jordan is concerned, Jordan has not altered its stance in regard to the basic principle of that land, the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war or any changes brought as a result of an external action. And therefore we still continue to recognize the amiri regime in Kuwait—this has been our position—and the system of government there. We haven't altered this position. And I have stated again before very clearly that if and when changes occur regarding the relations of countries towards unity or any other form that they choose, we will recognize the right of people exercised under total freedom to seek such an objective.

We are in the middle of a crisis. We have tried from the outset to handle it, to deal with it, to defuse it. This is what we expected of ourselves, what we believe Arab people in the Arab world expect of us, and possibly on a broader scale, what others do in the world if their objective and their interest is in arriving at an early conclusion of this chapter and the return of peace and tranquility and stability to this area.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Husayn] I have no idea at the moment.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Husayn] I beg your pardon?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] opposed to the sending of American troops to Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] The United States can decide, as it obviously does, what it believes is its right. Saudi Arabia is a sovereign state and can exercise its right in seeking any kind of assistance that it believes it is in need of. It is not for me to say whether this is right or not. And I believe time will tell if it was, or otherwise. However, I have always sought and adhered to my commitment that we in the Arab world have a duty before ourselves to deal with our own problems as rapidly as possible and in a manner that is adequate to any challenge we face as it relates to relations amongst members of our Arab family. And we have been trying and will continue to try to exercise this right.

[Reporter] Your majesty, you said in the absence of cool diplomacy that the situation is heading towards the verge of disaster. Did the actions of the last few days by the U.S. Government in moving of troops and the talk of possible blockade, do these move the situation closer to the verge of disaster? Have these events worsened the situation in your opinion?

[Husayn] I believe that the area is passing through one of the most dangerous crises it's ever faced. And I believe the slide continues. Hopefully, it can be halted. We will certainly do whatever we can towards that end. We are obviously amazed and possibly optimistic even at this moment in seeing how the world community can be mobilized and galvanized to achieve an objective; optimistic after long years of disappointment in the ability of the world to come together to uphold principles and ideals and apply the Charter of the United Nations on problems throughout the world equally. Hopefully, this new trend will be applied wherever and whenever and on whomsoever merits this kind of world attention. Speaking for ourselves, we are extremely concerned. We are extremely anxious to do whatever we can to defend the future of the Arab world and the rights of the Arab people and to defuse the situation that obviously does not affect us only, but also affects the rest of the world.

[Reporter] Your majesty, have you placed your Armed Forces on alert? And if so, why have you done so?

[Husayn] We are on a partial state of alert, and have been since this crisis began, because it is fairly obvious that we have to be alert to any possibility of this country facing danger, or of the circumstances encouraging whomsoever to pose a threat to it. And I believe that this probably applies elsewhere in the area in the regard to other Arab countries.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, have you spoken to President Husayn and President Bush [words indistinct]?

[Husayn] I have not spoken to either President Bush until this time, or to President Saddam Husayn, no.

[Reporter] Your majesty, you have been instrumental in the mediation between the Arab leaders recently. Are you planning a trip to Baghdad to convince President Husayn to attend the summit, or not to take the first shot in the Gulf?

[Husayn] Not to do what?

[Reporter] To fire the first shot.

[Husayn] My possibilities of persuading anybody to do anything that they do not feel like doing, or feel like doing, is very limited. But I believe in logic and common sense, and its prevalence hopefully, wherever the situation is such as we face now. No, I have no plans to visit Baghdad in the immediate future, because although I have been carrying out in cooperation with some of my colleagues sort of a shuttle diplomacy in the recent past, I believe that the time is very short and the plan is to move to the summit directly. However, if we can get in touch with our brethren to ensure that all attend, I do not know whether he will attend personally, but certainly we would like to see Iraq attend the Arab summit. So we'll do whatever we can towards that end.

[Reporter] If you were to go back two weeks in time would you have done or said anything differently?

[Husayn] No.

[Reporter] Do you still believe there is hope for an Arab solution of the conflict? And also President Mubarak proposed today an Arab common force between Iraq and Kuwait. What is the position of Jordan on this force?

[Husayn] I have no idea what President Mubarak proposed today.

[Reporter] A summit conference.

[Husayn] Well the summit conference is obviously the focus of my attention at the moment. Hopefully, we will attend it. And I do believe that if we are reponsible at the highest levels of authority in the Arab states and in the Arab land, if we truly represent the feelings and thoughts and hopes and aspirations of our people, if we regard our responsibilities seriously, as I am sure we do, then obviously we must not, at any moment, underestimate our capability to resolve Arab problems by ourselves. So we will have to try our best to achieve this goal.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, I have two questions: One, first of all, after the declaration of what is called the reunion between Kuwait and Iraq, do you still think the summit will take place? And two, regarding your statement earlier and your clarification before about Jordan not recognizing the new situation, how would that make Jordan's position in relation to its friendship with Iraq?

[Husayn] In regard to the first part of your question which was—what again, I can't hear you this time.

[Reporter] The first part of the question was whether the summit would still be held after. [sentence as heard]

[Husayn] The summit will be held. Otherwise, I wouldn't be saying that the summit will be held.

[Reporter] Even after the announcement of the reunion?

[Husayn] I believe the summit will be held. That's what I am preparing myself to go to. Otherwise, I wouldn't have disturbed you this evening to come and meet me. We would have taken our time about it.

And as regards, what, our relations with Iraq? We have stood with our Arab brethren whenever this area was threatened. We have stood and contributed, we believe, to stability in this area. We've given our best and we'll continue to do so for cohesion, for resolving problems, for creating of this Arab world, the Arab world we speak about, turning that into reality, of the family living in cohesion, to trust and confidence amongst its members. Our dreams are the dreams of our fathers and forefathers since the Arab awakening; for the securing of Arab rights, the rights of Arab people to live in peace, to live with dignity, and to see the fulfillment of their hopes and dreams, and securing a better future for the generations to come.

There have been many suggestions recently that our relationship with Iraq is as close as to have caused us to be a part of what happened. We saw the danger coming; we warned against the possibility of the situation developing into a crisis. We have tried over many years in fact, and intensively in the recent past to arrive at a different conclusion to what has happened between Iraq and Kuwait. It was our duty. But neither Iraq at any time in the past nor we—fortunately or unfortunately whichever way you care to describe it—subjected any decision that we took to the approval of the other. The Iraqis took a course of action that they chose, we were caught out as was the rest of the Arab world by the physical action. But the signs were there, nothing could have been clearer than the statement of the president of Iraq at the Arab summit when he warned that Iraq regarded the econmic pressures brought to bear against it specifying certain Arab countries and the question of oil as an act of war against the Iraqi people. Following that, we saw the situation deteriorate. We pinned our hopes on negotiations. But we were as surprised that morning as everyone else was by the fact of the action.

We are Arabs. We belong to this nation, and we as leaders bear a great responsibility—our resonsibility towards the Arab people. If we can fulfil our responsibilities with dignity, upholding the Arab people's dignity, safeguarding the Arab people's interests, that is what we do and what we have done. I believe that, for eight years, Iraq defended the Arab world against an external threat and gave great sacrifices. These were the years that brought us closer together than ever before. But they are not subservient to any, and by that I particularly mean any in this world. Life itself is not worth it if that were the case. We act what we are told by our conscience and what we believe is in the best interests of the Arab people. That's the way we are and that's the way we will be.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] escalation. Are you saying that if there is no success at the forthcoming Arab summit, i.e. if you weren't able to reach some kind of compromise to cool the situation down—are you saying that there is a grave risk of war between President Saddam Husayn's Iraq and the United States?

[Husayn] I certainly witnessed, as you have, a very rapid escalation and a very rapid deterioration in the situation in this area. And I am, obviously, very, very disturbed and very concerned of what may happen if this trend is to continue. So, we will do our best at the Arab level to ensure that we halt this slide as rapidly as possible.

[Reporter] Do you believe this summit will be the last chance?

[Husayn] I believe it could be a last chance, yes.

[Reporter] What is your reaction to the young Jordanians who would like to volunteer for Iraq. We have heard that there are quite a few who would like to volunteer for the Iraqi Army, and they could by that participate in the occupation of another Arab country. What is your reaction to this?

[Husayn] I am proud of this country and of its people and of the Arab nation to which we belong. When I tried to do my best at the very beginning, and as I continue to do my best now, to see an Arab resolution of an Arab problem, I am well aware of the feelings of millions of Arabs in the entire Arab world of frustration, of anger, when they see us unable to resolve our own problems by ourselves, and when they see what appears to them to be an attempt to force upon them the wills of others from outside this area. They have their rights to live with freedom and dignity, to secure a better future for themselves and, after all, this is what we are trying to achieve in this life. In any event, we are giving it our best now, and will do so at this summit that is coming to deal with the problem as as best as we can.

[Reporter] Your majesty, the Arab [words indistinct] over Jordanian territory if they needed to?

[Husayn] I can't tell you whether we will or we will not; but more than likely they will choose some other route.

[Reporter] Your majesty, there used to be an [word indistinct] in anti-American sentiments in the streets of Amman, and there've been even some rumors about some possible riot by Jordanians and Palestinians against Americans. Is that something that you are concerned about?

[Husayn] I do not believe that there is any danger of that. I cannot forecast what the future will bring, and whether Jordanians or Arabs anywhere feel justified in reacting to new steps that may be taken in this very dangerous game, but I believe that the Jordanian people have confidence in their leadership; they know its role and what it is trying to achieve, and when this happens hopefully there would be no need for them to manifest their feelings in other way.

[Reporter] Your majesty, how could do you [word indistinct] describe your close relationship with President Husayn? Is it—I want to ask whether it is your impression that he wants to talk. Does he want at this point a negotiated solution to this?

[Husayn] [Pointing at tape recorders] These things are popping by the way, so I really don't know if anyone would like to check their tapes.

It is very strange to hear about questions relating to my relations with any Arab leader. I've been in this position for 37 plus years. I've had relations of friendship and cooperation whenever possible with all those who were in power and all those who are in power and in positions of responsibility at this time. This is really the answer to your question.

[Reporter] Your majesty, the perception of the outside world that Iraq is a kind of monster [word indistinct] functioning outside the international system. It does not seem to be a perception that is shared here in Jordan. Would you be good enough to comment on that?

[Husayn] We are talking about the perceptions of Jordanians. I would like to say in this regard that we find it very difficult in this part of the world to understand how perceptions can be formulated in this world—the criteria, the reasons, the results. Well, for example I am now an extremist, and I do not know what other descriptions may fit me in the eyes of many in this world. We have struggled to have the best relations with all in this world—relations based on mutual respect and the genuine desire to cooperate amongst us in the interest of creating a better world for tomorrow. It seems that the criteria is not very clear to the point where at times it seems that we are living in a dictatorship, a universal dictatorship or are moving towards that end. I believe the media has a lot to do with that, in creating impressions and perceptions. But more than that, I certainly would not like to live in a world where anyone belittles the rights of any to have their say regarding themselves, regarding their future, regarding their rights.

In this crisis in particular, I moved to try to resolve it. I've incurred some of the wrath of many in this world. I acted and I am acting to fulfill my duties towards my people, the Arab people, and to resolve an Arab problem within the Arab context. So, if this is an example of what can happen in this world to someone who is not a newcomer, who's lived his years many times over in this very volatile, dangerous, frustrating, difficult part of the world, I suppose little wonder it can happen to others. But it is very sad that relations are not always based on mutual respect and that an attempt to find out what another side's intentions are, where hopes are to resolve problems wherever they exist, but to jump to conclusions too quickly. [sentence as heard] It's a time when the globe has become the home of a family; and I hope this will manifest itself in greater tolerance and understanding amongst people. And if standards are to be set and principles are to be upheld; and this is what we have been seeking for years and years and they should be held and upheld in all cases and for all people.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] a preemptive action against Iraq through Jordanian territory? And have you had any assurances or given any assurances to the Israelis through the good offices of the United States or anybody else regarding that possibility?

[Husayn] Regarding what, sir?

[Reporter] The possibility of Israel taking what it would consider to be preemptive action against Iraq through Jordanian territory.

[Husayn] Well, I hope that everyone knows that Jordan is not a passage for anybody, one way or the other. And if Jordan is threatened, well obviously, we will have to defend ourselves. But, at the time, this time we don't see any possibility of [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The Arab League has [words indistinct] to defend the method of his attack. In case of a worst scenario where there is a confederation, what will the Arab League do? Help Kuwait that was attacked or help Iraq that is attacked by outside forces?

[Husayn] I honestly don't know beyond saying that we have an Arab problem and that we are trying to resolve it within the Arab context. Obviously, if an outside element attacks an Arab state or Arab states, that is something I said we have to consider.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] not to bow down and will not [words indistinct] the U.S. to punish them. So, how do you foresee a solution in this crisis, especially that it went out of Arab hands?

[Husayn] Well, we hope it does not go out of Arab hands and we hope to be able to address it in the next day or so adequately and sincerely.

[Reporter] One of the dangers obviously is hasty military action. Another danger amongst many is appeasement, appeasing Saddam Husayn. [Words indistinct] If you let him have something, people say that well if you give something now, if you appease him now, he is going to want more later; what do you think about that, Your Majesty?

[Husayn] As I said, we are trying our best to resolve this problem to the best of our ability. We will contribute towards its resolution within the Arab context and immediately.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] interference from the Americans particularly?

[Husayn] I hope it will be a very constructive meeting. It will be a very frank and open meeting. And I hope it will produce some good results.

[Reporter] Do you yourself have a plan to present of this sort?

[Husayn] I have no plan at the moment. A plan will be formulated by the Arabs [words indistinct].

[Reporter] Your majesty, do you see the crisis affecting Jordan economically to a great extent?

[Husayn] Well, I suppose every crisis affects us in this area one way or the other. I don't think it is going to be towards a positive end. But anyway, we are a part of this area and we will take whatever comes to the best of our ability.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] do you see for yourself a role in explaining Saddam Husayn to the West and trying to bring the two attitudes towards this crisis together?

[Husayn] Well, I have in the past tried to contribute towards creating a better atmosphere of dialogue between many in this part of the world and the outside world; and I am one of the few, very few leaders who have been able to create links and friendships with so many throughout the world. I've utilized them to serve the Arab cause and I've utilized them to help others understand what the world feels and sees and to bridge wherever possible gaps that exist and that cause misunderstandings. And I've done so throughout my political life.

[Reporter] Your majesty, when are you leaving for Cairo?

[Husayn] I am just waiting to hear when we are meant to be there and we will take off.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Husayn] Thank you very, very much indeed. And let's see you again, hopefully in the times ahead. And we'll have hopefully better news.

Official Says Armed Forces on 'State of Alert'

NC0808194890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1936 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Unscheduled news summary]

[Text] REUTER has cited a high-level Jordanian official as saying that Jordan has declared a state of alert in the Armed Forces and police and has placed them in a state of preparedness.

Foreigners Continue Escape From Iraq to Amman

Begin Arriving by Land, Air 7 Aug

JN0808181990 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] A week after Iraqi troops entered Kuwait, Amman continues efforts to contain the crisis within the Arab framework while Jordanian political circles warn against blowing events out of proportion because of their concern that the whole region will be pushed into an explosion.

The Kingdom's decision not to recognize the provisional free Kuwait government, which consequently means not recognizing the declaration of the republic in Kuwait, is part of Jordan's balanced policy which, according to an official source, seeks to contain the crisis within the Arab fold and not internationalize it.

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran declared yesterday that the kingdom's recognition of the amiri system in the State of Kuwait still holds.

Political circles in Amman, which has been transformed into a media center and is witnessing extensive political activity, believe that emotions have become mixed up with facts. This they said in reference to the momentum of the flood of reports about the Gulf.

Tuesday night [7 August] groups of foreign nationals started arriving in Amman via land and air from Iraq, where they will transit the kingdom on their way back to their countries.

Brian Hume, a British citizen who arrived from the Iraqi capital, said that he came to Jordan by land; this despite rumors that foreigners were being prevented from leaving Iraq. Hume told our radio that his exit via the borders was totally normal.

Arrive by Road; Leave Amman

NC0808140990 Paris AFP in English 1329 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, Aug 8 (AFP)—Foreigners living in Iraq arrived in Jordan by road Wednesday, while others evacuated earlier left Jordan by plane for Europe as Western military strength was building in the region.

U.S. military planes arrived in Saudi Arabia earlier in the day. They were deployed to deter a possible Iraqi attack on the kingdom by Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait, since the invasion of the Gulf emirate August 2.

Many countries have advised their nationals to leave Iraq and the Gulf countries as tension increased.

A British national, Brian Humes, arrived here late Tuesday by car after travelling from the northern Iraqi town of Abeel [name as received]. He said he left Iraq with "no problem" after his week-long stay there.

A source at the British embassy in Amman said the embassy had sent a bus to the Iraqi border to meet any British citizens arriving there.

Another bus carrying 20 "foreigners" whose nationalities were not immediately known arrived at the eastern Jordanian border post of Roweished [name as received] after travelling overland from Iraq.

A spokesman for Jordan's national carrier, Royal Jordanian, said 60 Austrians and 80 Dutch nationals, meanwhile, had boarded a special flight to Europe. The airline Wednesday decided to set up extra flights to Vienna and Amsterdam.

Some 20 busses are also making daily trips from Amman to Baghdad carrying Iraqi citizens who have arrived in the Jordanian capital from a number of destinations, a source at Jordan's Al-Jazazi transport company said. He said the busses were returning to Amman.

The Italian Ambassador in Amman, Francesco De Courten, said Wednesday he had no information on the whereabouts of a group of Italians who were reportedly turned back by Iraqi troops as they headed to neighboring Jordan the previous day.

Mr. de Courten said the firm employing the Italians, Berardi Brescia company, had informed him by phone from Rome that four Italians and a Swiss who were trying to reach Jordan Tuesday had been stopped by Iraqi authorities.

The ambassador said the group would probably arrive in Jordan Wednesday, but that he had no further information from Baghdad.

Traveler Denies Hostage Rumors

JN0908051490 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] An Iraqi bus arrived today at the Iraqi-Jordanian al-Ruwayshid border post, in order to facilitate the transport of 20 multinational foreigners.

Contrary to reports from Western media and diplomatic circles that foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait are being held hostage, one of the nationals has said that these rumors are unfounded.

[Begin recording of interview with a German national in English] [Reporter] What nationality are you?

[Karl] I am German.

[Reporter] Did you arrive from Baghdad just now?

[Karl] Yes, just now, we arrived.

[Reporter] How were you treated in Baghdad?

[Karl] Very well as usual. Since 15 years, all the same.

[Reporter] Did you go through any bad time?

[Karl] Nothing at all.

[Reporter] Did you feel at any moment that you are a hostage?

[Karl] No I did not feel like a hostage. Not at all.

[Reporter] Thank you.

[Karl] At the time we were to go out, we had a bus so we just went out.

[Reporter] But you went through no difficulty at all?

[Karl] Nothing at all.

[Reporter] Thank you. Can I have your name, please?

[Karl] Yes, my name is Karl.

[Reporter] Thank you very much.

[Karl] You are welcome.

[End recording]

Also, tens of Japanese and Filipinos arrived at the Queen Alia International Airport from Iraq. A responsible source at Royal Jordanian has said that 60 Austrians and 80 Dutchmen among the foreign nationals in Iraq left Amman today aboard the company's planes for Amsterdam and Vienna. [passage omitted]

Students Stage Pro-Iraqi Demonstrations

JN0808192490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Amman, 8 Aug (INA)—The Jordan University campus today witnessed a mammoth demonstration staged by students of various faculties in support of great Iraq in its confrontation with the U.S. imperialist onslaught, which seeks to harm the Arab nation and plunder its wealth.

The demonstrating students held up pictures of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and his majesty King Husayn, paying tribute to the fraternal ties existing between Iraq and Jordan.

In their slogans the students affirmed their readiness to defend Iraq and its heroic Arab leader, Saddam Husayn, with their souls and blood. The demonstrators, who afterward headed for the Iraqi Embassy in Amman, chanted slogans such as: "Yes, Yes to Leader Saddam Husayn;" "We Are Ready To Sacrifice Our Blood for You, O Saddam;" "The Arab Homeland Will Be a Graveyard for Invaders."

At Ma'an Governorate, 215 km south of the Jordanian capital, a march was staged today in which youths from the governorate participated. In this march the demonstrators expressed their support for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and also for Iraq in its honorable defense of the holy Arab lands.

The demonstrators held aloft portraits of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and of his brother King Husayn of Jordan.

The demonstrators denounced the attempts being made by the United States and its allies to interfere in the affairs of the Arab nation.

In a related development, the Committee for Solidarity With Iraq in Irbid Governorate north of Jordan called for a popular rally on Saturday [11 August] to express support for Iraq.

Volunteers Join 'People's Army' To Defend Iraq

JN0908092790 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 aug 90 p 3

[By Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—Four thousand Jordanians have signed up to join a people's army to "help the peoples of Kuwait and Iraq defend themselves against outside aggression," said Mohammad al al-Rashdan, secretary-general of the Jordanian Committee for Support of Kuwait, Wednesday [8 August].

"We expect to have up to ten thousand by tomorrow," al-Rashdan, a Jordanian lawyer, said that men and women had lined up volunteering to go to Kuwait and Iraq.

Committee members said that the number of volunteers grew after Jordanians heard news that U.S. troops had arrived in Saudi Arabia and that U.S., British and Soviet ships were heading for the Gulf.

He did not give a figure of how many women volunteered, but said "we told the women that it was not necessary for them to sign up, but they insisted."

Representatives of the recently formed committee visited with Minister of Interior Salim Masa'idah Wednesday to discuss their plans. Masa'idah advised against sending Jordanians to the two Gulf nations at this time, giving good reasons for not doing so, according to one committee member who attended the meeting.

Whole "tribes" called the committee members Wednesday to announce their willingness to go to the Gulf to "defend it against foreign attacks," according to committee officials. "The popular response has been overwhelming. One man called in today and said tomorrow I'am bringing in passports of hundreds relatives of mine," al-Rashdan said.

The formation of the committee, which consists of members of professional associations, unions and public officials, was announced Tuesday and said membership was open to all who wanted to participate in the national effort.

Officials at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman said they appreciated the support but said they were not aware of any Jordanian groups that had gone to Iraq or Kuwait.

Parliament Asks Al-Asad To Gain Iranian Support

JN0908061890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] During an emergency meeting the Jordanian Parliament has called on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to try to mediate with Iran to make it support Iraq against the common enemy—the United States. It also called on him to reopen the pipeline that transported Iraqi oil to the Mediterranean through Syrian territory.

Cabinet Endorses Arab League Resolution on Iraq

NC0808145790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpt] The cabinet held a meeting at 1030 today chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers, except Minister Walid Junblatt. The meeting ended at 1430.

The cabinet endorsed the Arab League's resolution condemning the Iraqi military operation against Kuwait and affirmed the need to tackle this issue within the Arab family.

The cabinet was also briefed on the contacts held by some ministers at home and in Syria. Ministers Albert Mansur and Muhsin Dallul reviewed the results of their contacts regarding the abnormal situation in the eastern area and the tense situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The cabinet appealed to the parties involved in the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah and in the rebellion in the eastern area to end their negative stands which harm the people's interests and reflect negatively on the economic situation. [passage omitted]

Red Cross Spokesman on Swiss Hostage Release

AU0808195090 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Geneva, Aug 8 (AFP)—Emanuel Christen, one of two Swiss nationals taken hostage in Lebanon last year, has been released, a Red Cross spokesman here announced Wednesday.

Mr. Christen, 33, and another Swiss national, Elio Erriquez, 24, worked as orthopedic technicians for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), specializing in fitting artificial limbs to victims of Lebanon's endemic factional fighting. They were kidnapped on October 6, 1989 as they arrived for work at the ICRC center outside the Palestinian refugee camp of 'Ayn al-Hulwah, near the southern port of Sidon. Their abduction was never claimed.

Mr. Christen had been among 15 Westerners held hostage in Lebanon.

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi appealed for the release of the two Swiss on April 22, the day on which U.S. hostage Robert Polhill was freed in Beirut by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine. Col. al-Qadhdhafi called for the release to take place during 'Id al-Fitr, the three-day Moslem holday that closes the fasting month of Ramadan. But the holiday ended in April with no news of the two men, whose kidnapping prompted a wave of sympathy in Lebanon.

The day after the abduction, several dozen invalids in wheelchairs or on crutches demonstrated in Sidon, holding placards saying: "Who will take care of us now?" On November 18 a day of protest was held throughout the country.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah group has accused the pro-Libyan Fatah Revolutionary Council of having carried out the kidnappings. But the FRC, which is deeply hostile to Mr. 'Arafat, has denied any involvement.

On April 10 the FRC, in response to a call by Col. al-Qadhdhafi, released a French woman, her Belgian boyfriend and their small daughter. The group is still holding four other Belgians, whom it claimed to have seized in November 1987 from a yacht in the eastern Mediterranean.

Israeli Forces in South Reportedly Put on Alert

NC0808061690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] According to reports received from the South, the Israeli ocupation authorities have put their forces in the occupied territories there on alert, especially in the eastern and western sectors.

Uri Lubrani, coordinator for Israeli terror in the occupied border strip, has emphasized that the occupation forces will remain in the South.

Meanwhile, resistance fighters shelled positions held by the occupation forces and their militiamen in Marj 'Uyun. They detonated an explosive device as an enemy patrol passed. The militia admitted that one militiaman was killed in the explosion.

Israeli enemy forces shelled areas in the western al-Biqa' yesterday. An Israeli patrol advanced into the liberated areas and carried out a wide-scale search.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement announced that it discovered a car rigged with 100 kg of explosives in al-Nabatiyah yesterday and that a military expert dismantled it.

Amal Group Attacks Militia Position in South

NC0808094290 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Amal Movement said in a statement today that one of its groups used automatic weapons and rockets to attack a position held by Agent Lahd's militiamen at al-Shumariyah hill last night. In the 20-minute violent clash that ensued, the militiamen sustained a number of casualties. The group returned safely to base.

The statement said that the occupation forces used heavy-caliber artillery to shell the neighborhoods of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyahih. The occupation forces also combed the al-Litani river course.

Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives in Damascus

JN0808181090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Damascus at 1900 today carrying a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch.

Receiving him at Damascus International Airport were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', directors of the departments of the Arab Homeland and Protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi Arabian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Delivers Message to Al-Asad

JN0808211290 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1800 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received this evening the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who delivered to the president a message from King Fahd over the position in the Gulf and the proposition for an emergency Arab summit. President al-Asad kindly requested that Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal carry a reply message to King Fahd.

Present at the audience was the foreign minister, Mr. Faruq al-Shar'.

Departs 8 Aug

JN0908053390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Damascus at 2215 yesterday. He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Al-Asad Phones Arab Leaders, Calls for Summit

King Fahd

JN0908061090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad this afternoon telephoned King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques and Saudi Arabian monarch, in which they discussed the situation and developments in the Gulf and the need to hold an emergency Arab summit as quickly as possible.

His majesty expressed his agreement over holding such a summit.

Other Arab Kings, Presidents

JN0808182790 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1606 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad today talked on the phone with a number of Arab kings and presidents during which he brought up with them the need to hold an emergency and urgent Arab summit to discuss developments in the Gulf region.

It transpired from the telephone conversations he held with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt; His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid of the Republic of Algeria; King Hassan II of Morocco; King Husayn of Jordan; Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution; Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali; and Yemeni Presidential Council Chairman 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih that they all agreed that an emergency summit was necessary.

His excellency the president is continuing his contacts with Arab kings and presidents to make speedy arrangements for the summit.

Syria today sent a request to the Arab League General Secretariat asking the League to call the Arab heads of state to an emergency and urgent summit at Arab League headquarters in Cairo.

Al-Shar' Requests Emergency Arab Summit

JN0908044890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1555 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today sent a letter to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. The following is the text:

In view of accelerating developments in the wake of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the potential Israeli and foreign intervention in the region; to confirm the call made by President Hafiz al-Asad in the first hours of the invasion when he was in touch with a number of Arab leaders with a view to convening an immediate Arab summit; and in accordance with the Arab League Council's resolution issued in Cairo on 3 August 1990 recommending the holding of an emergency Arab summit, the Syrian Arab Republic requests the convening of an emergency Arab summit in Cairo, the permanent seat of the Arab League, to weigh the consequences of the Iraqi invasion and to take whatever decisions and measures required to advance the objectives of the Arab nation and safeguard its supreme interests.

Earlier this afternoon, al-Shar' held a telephone conversation with Klibi to explore the possibility of an immediate summit in Cairo.

Al-Ahmar Reasserts 'Rejection' of Iraqi Invasion

JN0808223590 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Damascus, 8 Aug (SANA)—Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has emphasized Syria's national and pan-Arab positions on the current developments in the Arab region and the world as a whole.

In a speech to the students of martyr Faysal al-Qasim's camp for university training in Aleppo, northern Syria, al-Ahmar said Syria will continue to shoulder national and pan-Arab responsibilities in defense of the Arab nation's causes in order to regain the usurped Arab lands and rights and build the Arab society, which achieves progress and prosperity for the sons of the Arab homeland. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Ahmar commented on the Iraqi forces' invasion of the State of Kuwait, the dangers posed to Iraq and the Arab nation, and the fact that the doors are wide open to the possibility of foreign intervention in the affairs of the Arab region.

He reasserted rejection of this invasion and nonacceptance of it as a means to settle Arab disputes. He added that Syria's stand on this issue is clear and is based on demanding the immediate, unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces.

The assistant secretary general of the party explained that events are developing at a fast pace and that foreign forces are trying to benefit from what took place to tighten their grip on the Arab region and its wealth.

He also noted that Israel finds a suitable climate in these events to press ahead with its expansionist schemes at the expense of the Arab nation.

Joint Committee Ends Session, Signs Minutes

JN0808121490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—The Syrian Arab side led by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zau'bi and the Jordanian side led by Prime Minister Mudar Badran held a final session of the Syrian-Jordanian joint committee this afternoon in the presence of the members of both delegations. At the beginning of the session, al-Zu'bi said that what has been achieved over the past two days is a new link in Syrian-Jordanian cooperation and epitomizes the objective bases of the joint interests of the two fraternal countries.

Badran also spoke, stressing that the meetings have promoted the joint topics, and he thanked President Hafiz al-Asad, praising his deep insight. He also thanked al-Zu'bi and the government for their hospitality and avowed that the joint committee meetings had a great positive impact on cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries.

During the session the two sides also reviewed the results of the subcommittees' work in various areas. The work includes the re-formation of the subcommittees in light of the results of past experience. The talks centered on economic cooperation and trade as well as energy, mineral wealth, education, culture, tourism, water, irrigation, planning, public works, housing, industry, agriculture, transportation, and communications.

The two sides also agreed to work out a trade mechanism to exchange agricultural and industrial products. The talks dealt with the work of joint companies and their activity. They also stressed the importance of the fifth session of the Syrian-Jordanian joint committee in promoting economic, social, and educational ties epitomizing the aspirations of the one Arab people in Syria and Jordan. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran then signed the joint minutes of the meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian joint committee. Members of the two delegations attended the ceremony.

Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran left Damascus at 1700 today after a two-day visit to Syria during which he headed the Jordanian side in the meetings of the Syrian-Jordanian joint committee. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Tehran Paper Interviews Mujahidin Spokesman

NC0308193490 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jul 90 p 12

[Report on "exclusive" interview with 'Abdul 'Ali Mazari, spokesman for the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami Party of Afghanistan, by unidentified JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] A majority of Afghan mujahidin, clerics, and scholars consider the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami to be a party which has the ability to resolve the Afghanistan issue. In an exclusive interview with a JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI correspondent, Mr. 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, spokesman for the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, commented on the outcome of a 25-day visit by the party's leaders to Pakistan, during which they meet with commanders, clerics, and members of the six-party Afghan mujahidin coalition.

The Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami spokesman, who had returned from Pakistan just a day earlier, was asked what results had been achieved during the talks with the coalition leaders in Pakistan. He said: Our agenda centered on discussions about elections, but other issues also cropped up during our talks. [passage omitted]

We tried to focus our talks on elections and to reach a feasible solution in this regard. Most of the groups and nearly all the mujahidin leaders and Afghan clerics concurred on the issue of elections, and all of them considered the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami plan to be very comprehensive and progressive. There was some debate over the appropriate timing for its implementation. The six-party coalition could not reach a consensus on this point, and therefore it was decided that they should be given some time to reach an agreement, so that the talks can be pursued effectively.

[Correspondent] What were the difficulties with or criticism of the Hezb-e Wahdat's plan for elections?

[Mazari] Both sides believe that a credible authority should be selected to supervise the elections. Two or three plans were presented. One, which envisioned the setting up of a "Supreme Jihad Council," received wide support. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What is the agenda for future talks the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami will hold with the leaders of the six-party coalition and with other leaders?

[Mazari] One topic on the agenda is the present government and another is the elections. They know our opinion on both subjects and will consult among themselves and announce the results of their talks and the agreements they may reach later.

As regards the elections, of course we believe our plan should be implemented. However, if it is decided to leave the matter to the "Loya Jirga," then we believe that one-fourth of the representatives [namayandeh] should be from the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, and the elections should be held at the earliest possible opportunity.

[Correspondent] Will the next round of talks be held in Tehran?

[Mazari] We stated that they would prefer them to be held in Tehran. If they do not agree, they should suggest an alternate venue so that we can present our viewpoint.

[Correspondent] What were the results of your trip to Pakistan?

[Mazari] [passage omitted] During our talks with UN representatives, it was decided that all international aid destined for the central areas of the Hazarajat region should be given through the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. In return, we assured them that we will ensure their security and cooperate with the people in order to provide better services.

In my view, the most important achievement was that some adverse publicity was neutralized. It had been repeatedly stated that groups such as ours are made up of Shiites who do not want the Afghanistan issue to be resolved. These talks and the reports about them in the mass media familiarized everyone with the fact that the principled stance of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami is encountering differences of opinion and lack of coordination and unity from the six-party coalition.

During this trip, it was affirmed that the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami has shown complete willingness to resolve the Afghanistan issue. Even leaders of the six-party coalition admitted that the lack of cooperation was on their part, as they could not respond unanimously to our proposals, and apologized for this.

This state of affairs helped dispel the false criticism by those who wished to accuse the Shiites of inciting discord and instead revealed our clear and publicly stated opinions. In this way it was shown that the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami considers Shiite-Sunni unity to be imperative.

We clearly stated there that in every revolution, either the mujahidin should set up a government or one should be established on the basis of elections. Either of these solutions is acceptable to the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami. [passage omitted]

Thus, it was confirmed that the real problem is their lack of coordination. We are very optimistic that in the next round of talks this issue will be eliminated and the work will proceed favorably so that, God willing, the issue will be settled by achieving complete solidarity between Sunni and Shiite groups and Afghanistan's problems will be fully solved.

Of course, all these points were reflected in the media and the mujahidin and Islamic scholars saw for themselves that the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami's stance is correct. They warmly welcomed this and told us: You should find the solution to save Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] During your visit, there was talk of a comprehensive plan for elections which attracted immense attention. Were the details of the plan also discussed during the talks?

[Mazari] This plan was hailed as a comprehensive and progressive one and the newspapers also reflected this fact. Others said it was the only plan which should be considered for convening the elections. This is a fact, as much intensive and continuous work has been done in this regard. Of course, all were of the opinion that the elections should be postponed until a general and all-encompassing consensus is achieved. We also believe that, God willing, a strong political and military axis should be created so that these elections can be guaranteed.

[Correspondent] You mentioned the lack of coordination in the six-party coalition. Does such a problem exist in the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami?

[Mazari] There definitely is some difference of opinion in the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, but not any lack of coordination. This is because we have accepted specific principles to prevent this happening. However, we do not reject the existence of differences of opinion. Such differences enable us to find and debate better solutions.

[Correspondent] What is the specific program of the Hezb-e Wahdaat-e Eslami in the short term?

[Mazari] The most important program of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami is to strengthen the party's base within Afghanistan and to expand its offices abroad. We have had remarkable success with this so far and want this success to continue.

[Correspondent] The Soviet Union has announced that it does not give arms to the Najibullah regime. How true is this?

[Mazari] This is a mere political ploy. The flood of Soviet military aid to the Najibullah regime has not abated even for a second. Rest assured that if the arms supplies from the Soviet Union to Najibullah were to be halted for even one second, then this regime would fall. Had the mujahidin been successful in cutting the Heyratan-Salang highway and halting air supplies from Moscow to Kabul, then Najibullah's regime would have fallen in a short time. Therefore, the Soviet claim is an utter lie and an example of its double-dealing.

However such propaganda has never posed a problem to the mujahidin. It is the major and fundamental differences which we hope will be resolved and we are trying our best to achieve this.

[Correspondent] Najibullah has invited the mujahidin to cooperate and has made various promises to them. Has he been successful in getting a response?

[Mazari] There has been a lot of propaganda in this regard, but the fact is that he has not had any success. Najib's associates are the same lackeys who were there before and every day they are depicted in a manner which is aimed at projecting the success of Najibullah's call for national reconciliation. This is a mere fabrication as regards the mujahidin, although it may be true to a limited extent with regard to the local commanders. Perhaps there were some very minor successes, but these are of no importance whatsoever.

Explosives, Rockets Recovered in Nangarhar

LD0608171190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] Officials of state security in Nangarhar recently captured eight kilograms of explosives which were placed in a crowded area of the city of Jalalabad in order to cause carnage among our muslim compatriots. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the explosives were placed there by a person associated with extremist groups. The culprit has also been captured with the full cooperation of the local people.

Organs of state security recently mounted a clearing up operation in the area of Nangarhar Province to prevent terrorist acts by the extremists. According to a BAKHTAR report, two surface-to-air Sterela rockets were discovered and seized in the operation.

India

Ship Diverted To Evacuate Indians in Liberia

Others Sought

BK0708160590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] The center has diverted a ship from the high seas near Gibraltar to the Liberian capital, Monrovia, to evacuate about 460 Indians sheltered in a school there. Another ship belonging to the Shipping Corporation of India has been put on standby alert at the port of Marseilles for possible diversion in the next 24 hours. Efforts are also being made to charter more vessels from ports nearer to Monrovia to minimize the sailing time.

Gujral Says 6,500 Evacuated

BK0908092890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that about 6,500 people of Indian origin have been evacuated from Liberia in view of the civil war conditions prevailing in that country. In a written reply, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said timely assistance was given by the government to members of the Indian community to help them leave Liberia.

Foreign Minister Says Indians in Kuwait Safe

BK0908090890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] All Indian nationals in Kuwait are safe. This has been confirmed by the Indian ambassador in Kuwait, who could establish radio contact with India this morning. This was stated by the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, in the Lok Sabha today. He said all out efforts are being made to ensure the safety of Indian nationals in Kuwait and India is in constant touch with Iraq to arrange for evacuation of Indian nationals by whatever means available.

Kuwait Embassy Pledges Loyalty to Ousted Amir

BK0708125690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0935 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 7 (AFP)—Kuwait's embassy here swore allegiance to the ousted emir Tuesday and denounced the Iraqi-installed government as a puppet regime. The embassy, which has a three-man diplomatic staff, released a statement which said the mission "denounces the so-called new Kuwaiti Government which was set up by the invading Iraqi regime."

It added, "the Kuwaiti people cannot accord any importance to this alleged government." The statement affirmed the embassy's allegiance to ousted Emir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. "The embassy warns against any dealings with any party affiliated with the puppet government," added the statement, released five days after a massive Iraqi invasion force overran the tiny Gulf state.

Shaykh Jabir and several members of the royal family fled by helicopter from Kuwait City soon after the invasion, which was followed by the installation of what Baghdad called a free provisional Kuwait government. A spokesman for the Kuwaiti Embassy said one of its three diplomats posted in New Delhi was holidaying at home when the invasion occurred, but gave no further details.

The statement came as an Indian MP expressed concern at the fate of 170,000 Indians living in Kuwait. P.J. Kurien of the opposition Congress (I) Party told parliament Tuesday that Indians had been unable to contact their relatives in Kuwait, with telecommunications links cut and all flights to Kuwait canceled.

He accused the Indian Government of not doing anything to ensure the welfare of Indians, who he said owned property worth more than 3.5 billion dollars in the Gulf state. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Parvataneni Upendra told members that the External Affairs Ministry was constantly monitoring the situation in Kuwait and that all Indians there were safe.

Commentary Views Bhutto Struggle With Opponents

BK0708133990 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 7 Aug 90

[S.K. Nayyar commentary: "Ms. Bhutto's Dismissal—A Virtual Coup by Pro-Zia Elements"]

[Text] The abrupt end to Ms. Benazir Bhutto's 20-month-old controversial rule on Monday [6 August] and her dismissal by Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the grounds of corruption, nepotism, and violation of the Constitution speaks of a virtual coup by pro-Zia elements. Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan has also dissolved the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies by dismissing the chief ministers. The opposition leader, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, who was sworn in as caretaker prime minister, is a maverick. Once a close comrade of the late Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, Jatoi, the Sindhi landowner, quarreled bitterly with Benazir Bhutto, and became president of an electoral alliance formed to oppose it [Pakistan People's Party] at the polls.

The president has also declared a state of emergency asking the Army to look after installations, including Pakistani television, the radio, the prime minister's Secretariat and her house apart from headquarters of the telecommunications department. The military move has been described as an act to ensure an orderly transition to other civilian authorities and not an attempt by the military to seize power.

Besides Mr. Jatoi, four new caretaker chief ministers, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, Punjab; Mr. Jam Sadiq Ali, Sindh; Mir Afzal Khan, North-West Frontier Province; and Humayun Marri, Balochistan, have been appointed. The dismissed Punjab chief minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has threatened to take out a huge procession to the president's house in Islamabad, while Ms. Bhutto has threatened to go to court against the illegal dismissal. On the other side, Mr. Ishaq Khan, Pakistan's president, has warned against any attempt to foment civil unrest by saying that any attempt at mass agitation would be crushed.

The time for dissolution of the government is significant as it comes just two days before the scheduled commencement of a parliament session in which the opposition was expected to move a no-confidence motion against the government, the second in nine months. The chances of Ms. Bhutto losing at the no-confidence motion were quite bright if the marginal victory of the first no-confidence motion is any pointer. The announcement of the talk of fresh elections within 90 days, what kind of elections and how fair they would be, and the new political alliance that it would generate and whether Ms. Bhutto would be able to fight out the election because of the charges levelled against her and her government are yet to be disclosed by the forthcoming events within a few days.

Ms. Bhutto has already announced dark days ahead for Pakistan. The dismissal of Ms. Benazir Bhutto might

have come as a surprise to the people in general, but the political observers who have been chasing events in Pakistan wonder how Ms. Bhutto's government had been allowed to form a government and to remain in office for nearly 20 months. This is something of a record in a country that has been under military rule for 25 of its 43 years of existence. A country riddled with fundamentalism has seen a young woman heading the government is no less than a surprise. [sentence as heard]

Among the troika that ruled Pakistan, the Army comes first, the bureaucracy represented by President Ishaq second, and Ms. Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, third in the priority order. There was hardly any time for Ms. Bhutto during the last 20 months which can be said free from tension. The first few months of her assumption of office, for friction between her and Mr. Ishaq Khan on such vital appointments as the joint chiefs of staff and Ms. Bhutto could have not had a way. [sentence as heard]

She was also a helpless, though not silent, observer when the hawks in the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] extended aid to Punjab terrorists and Pakistan Army organized training camps for Kashmir militants. The signing of three agreements with the former Indian prime minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to improve relations with India annoyed many hard-liners in Pakistan and she was compelled to go out to harbor on annexation of Kashmir or even justify Pakistani military and moral support to the Pakistan-trained secessionist elements in India.

The Punjabi political forces, which had not reconciled to a non-Punjabi becoming the prime minister, decided to create constitutional problems by tabling a no-confidence motion. The open defiance of the federal authority by the Punjab chief minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, who ran a parallel government, created further problems for her. The law and order situation in Sindh and the controversial Sharia [Islamic Law] Bill that she had opposed also contributed to oust her from power.

India will have to watch and take appropriate military and political measures, keeping in view the hard-liners having the rein of power in Pakistan now.

75,000 Sikkimese To Become Indian Citizens

BK0608131290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] The chief minister of Sikkim, Mr. Nar Bahadur Bhandari, has said that the center has decided to grant citizenship to 75,000 people who were left out when Sikkim merged with India in 1975. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi, Mr Bhandari said cases of giving citizenship to another 5,000 is being considered by the union Home Ministry. With this, one of the major demands of the people of the state will be fulfilled.

PRC Team Meets With Finance Ministry Officials

BK0408163990 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 90

[Text] A high-level Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister of Finance Chi Haibin today held detailed discussions here with officials of the Finance Ministry on the Indian systems of policy making and management in financial and economic administration. The Indian side was led by Finance Secretary Dr. Bimal Jalan and included Chief Economic Adviser Deepak Nair and Revenue Secretary Mr. R.L. Mishra. The Chinese team, which is on a 10-day visit to this country, is reported to be keen to learn from the Indian experience in macro-management of economic affairs. Their main areas of interest include fiscal and monetary systems, banking systems and procedures, planning, obtaining and utilizing foreign and external assistance, taxation, and agricultural development. Dr. Jalan said both countries had many similarities in the problems and prospects for economic development. Mr. Haibin said India and China share common concerns regarding accelerated development with social justice.

Government To Reserve 27 Percent of Jobs for Poor

BK0708164290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] The central government has decided to have job reservation for socially and educationally backward classes on the basis of the Mandal Commission report. Making a statement in the Rajya Sabha today, the prime minister announced that 27 percent of jobs in the central services as well as in public undertakings will henceforth be reserved for the backward classes. Mr. V.P. Singh also announced that the castes common to the Mandal Commission list and the lists of state governments will be adopted in the first phase so that reservation for backward classes is implemented speedily and in a harmonious manner. The prime minister described that reservation of jobs for backward classes is a momentous decision for ensuring social justice.

MP Calls Price Situation 'Alarming'; Rally Held

BK0708170090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Both the houses of parliament are having a discussion on the price situation. In the Lok Sabha, the speaker, Mr. Rabi Ray, admitted a notice for the adjournment motion by Mr. Vasant Sathe, Congress-I. Mr. Sathe, moving the motion, charged the government of failure to check the price of essential commodities and said the situation is getting from bad to worse. He said the government came to power on the electoral promise that it will bring down prices, but has failed even to maintain the prices prevailing at the time of election. Earlier, soon after the house assembled this morning for the monsoon session, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, suggested suspension of question hour to

take up the discussion on the adjournment motion on the price situation. However, it was agreed that the discussion would start after the question hour and laying of papers [on the table of the house].

In the Rajya Sabha, a short-duration discussion on the price situation, which was scheduled for 0230 this afternoon, was taken up immediately after question hour. The deputy leader of the Congress-I in the house, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, demanded that as the price situation is alarming, the discussion may be taken up before any other item is discussed by the house. The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, offered to have the discussion, putting aside other items on the agenda.

Initiating the debate, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP [Bharatiya Janata party], criticized the government and said the steps taken to contain prices are not adequate. He demanded more items to be included for distribution through fair price shops and the system to be made more effective. He said the profit margin in industrial goods is abnormal and wanted the government to draw some parity in prices of agricultural produce and industrial goods. He said the present government inherited a bad monetary situation. But that should not be an excuse for the price rise. The debate is continuing in both houses.

During the discussion, an opposition Congress-I member urged the government to come out with a definite plan of action and said hard decisions will have to be taken to contain the price rise.

A large number of Congress-I workers held a rally in New Delhi today to protest against the price hike in essential commodities. The demonstrators, who were proceeding toward parliament house, were detained by the police near Patel Chowk. Those detained include the general secretary of the Congress-I and member of parliament, Mr. H.K.L. Bhagat; Mr. Jagdish Tytler; and the office-bearers of the Delhi Pradesh [state] Congress-I Committee.

Action Taken To Contain Prices

BK0708170690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] The unabated price rise of essential commodities was discussed at great length in both houses of parliament today. The Lok Sabha today rejected an adjournment motion on the price situation moved by the Congress-I by an overwhelming majority. The Rajya Sabha also held a short-duration discussion on price rise which, however, remained inconclusive.

Replying to the daylong discussion in the Lok Sabha, the finance minister, Professor Madhu Dandavate, announced the government's determination to take stern action against hoarders and black marketeers. He said the state governments have assured full cooperation in vigorously enforcing the Essential Services Maintenance Act and the enforcement machinery is being strengthened. He said that action has already been taken against more than 900 hoarders. The minister shared the members' concern over the rise in the prices of some essential commodities, particularly of edible oil, and said a series of measures have been taken to contain the prices.

Referring to availability of petroleum products, the finance minister allayed members' apprehension of any shortage. He said substantial inventories of petroleum products are available and there is no need for panic despite the current situation in the Gulf. Professor Dandavate admitted that the recent hike in prices of petrol and diesel has contributed to rise in prices of essential commodities. But the government had to resort to this measure with a view to bridging the budget deficit. He announced that the government will come out with its first performance report on the economic front during the monsoon session itself. It will cover the first four months of the current financial year.

Refuting the opposition criticism, the finance minister quoted figures to prove that the fiscal and economic imbalances inherited by the present government are responsible for the prevailing situation. He also asserted that the credit rating of the country has not been eroded in international arena.

Earlier, both houses of parliament took up discussion on the price situation immediately after the question hour. Taking part in the debate, the leader of the opposition, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said price rise has been caused by the wrong economic policies and populist measures of the government. He alleged that the government has failed to take measures against hoarders and manipulators.

Minister Criticizes Proposed 9 Aug Farmers Rally

BK0808094090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The union industry minister, Mr. Ajit Singh, has criticized the proposed farmers rally [organized by former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal] in New Delhi tomorrow. In a statement issued in New Delhi, Mr. Singh said that the present government has been taking concrete steps to safeguard the interests of the farmers ever since it came to power. The increase in the prices of agricultural produce, the waiver of loans and promotion of rural and cottage industries, which will provide employment opportunities to crores of people in rural areas, are some of the examples. The proposed rally, the statement observed, has therefore no justification. The statement appealed to the people to come forward to participate in the developmental programs of the government and not to be misled by those who want to use politics for personal gains.

In a separate statement, about 60 Janata Dal legislators from Uttar Pradesh have expressed the view that the proposed rally is intended to misguide the people of rural India and it is politically motivated. The signatories to the statement include Mr. Rajendra Singh, Mr. Bhupal Singh, Mr. Harendra Malik, Mr. Sharda Prasad Rawat, Mrs. Bimla Rakesh, and Haji Hayat.

Farmers Rally Expresses Faith in Devi Lal

BK0908090290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] A large number of people have arrived at the Boat Club in New Delhi to participate in the farmers rally. The rally has been organized by the Bihar Sangharsh Samiti [Struggle Committee] to highlight, what it calls, economic disparities between the urban rich and the rural poor.

Our correspondent reports that Mr. Chandrashekhar, Mr. Prakash Singh Badal, Mr. Subramania Swamy, Mr. Shaminder Singh, Mr. Kasi Ram, Mr. Hukum Singh are among the leaders who have already arrived. Various speakers expressed their faith in the leadership of Mr. Devi Lal [ousted deputy prime minister]. They also urged him to fight against economic disparities, which exist between the urban rich and the rural poor.

A report just received says that the rally adopted a resolution expressing confidence of the farmers community in the leadership of Mr. Devi Lal. The resolution was moved by Hukum Dev Narayan Singh Yadav, MP [member of Parliament]. Several speakers, who addressed the rally, reiterated that they will not allow the breaking of the Janata Dal but take Mr. Devi Lal with them in the struggle for the rights of the farmers.

Assam Home Minister To Continue in Office

BK0608032190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Aug 90

[Text] The Assam home minister, Mr. Bhrigu Kumar Phukan, has agreed to continue at his post in deference with the wishes of the chief minister, Mr. Parfulla Kumar Mahanta. Mr. Phukan submitted his resignation to the chief minister owning moral responsibility for the killing of the Dibrugarh police superintendent and two others on the 29th of July.

INSAT-2 Satellites To Be Built Domestically

BK0508093990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] In future, all satellites of the second generation INSAT-2 system will be built indigenously. Work on the first satellite is already in an advanced stage. Under the program, two multi-purpose test satellites will be launched followed by three operational ones. INSAT-2 series satellites will be larger and perform better than INSAT-1 satellite.

Our correspondent understands the first test satellite is likely to be launched by the end of next year and the first operational one by 1994. These will be well in time to replace to replace the INSAT-1B satellite before it runs out. Sources said the Master Control Facility at Hassan near Bangalore is also being expanded to enable it handle the second generation satellites.

Vice President Cautions Against Communalists

BK0508162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 5 Aug 90

[Text] The vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, has cautioned the people to be vigilant about the designs of communal and fundamentalist elements. While paying tributes to the noted freedom fighter, Maulana Hafizur Rahman, in the capital today, he said the Constitution provides equal opportunities to all the citizens irrespective of caste, creed, or community. He regretted that some elements are trying to divide the people on communal lines to serve their own vested interests. Dr. Sharma urged the minorities, particularly Muslims, to take advantage of various opportunities provided by the government and develop a sense of self-confidence. He pointed out that those who went to Pakistan after partition are still called Muhajirs in that country and are being discriminated against.

Bureau To Aid Commission on Meham Violence

BK0508035390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 90

[Text] The center has agreed to provide CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] assistance to D.P. Madan commission, inquiring into the death of Amir Singh, a candidate in the Meham assembly by-election in Haryana in May last and the incidents of violence in village Madina and the role of the police.

An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that Mr. Justice D.P. Madan, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, heading the one-man inquiry commission formally took over on the first of this month and has started functioning. Mr. Justice Madan requested the home ministry for assistance of the CBI under the Commission of Inquiries Act.

The commission is to submit its report to the center within three months.

Troops Kill 13, Wound 16 in Kashmir

BK0708095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0904 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 7 (AFP)—Indian paramilitary soldiers sprayed gunfire on sleeping Moslem civilians in Kashmir's curfew-bound summer capital and torched two houses, killing 13 people and wounding 16, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported Tuesday. Border Security Force (BSF) men posted on internal security duties burst into several downtown houses in Srinagar late Monday and opened fire from rifles, the agency quoted unnamed police sources as saying. Eight adults and three children sleeping in the houses were killed in the midnight raid which left 16 others injured, nine critically, it said.

The troopers later set two houses in the overcrowded Hawal residential area on fire and prevented firefighters

from dousing the blaze, PTI said, adding that two more people died in the fire. What provoked the security men was not immediately clear, and a BSF official in Srinagar when contacted by telephone denied the massacre.

PTI said a BSF patrol came under grenade attack by suspected Moslem militants in Srinagar's Gojwara district, about a kilometre (half a mile) from Hawal, just before the shooting. A senior officer suffered minor injuries in the attack. It was not known whether the two incidents were linked.

Police sources in Srinagar reached by telephone from New Delhi could also not immediately confirm the Hawal massacre. Director-general of Police J.N. Saxena told PTI that an "official version" of the incident would be made available Tuesday evening. He reportedly refused to confirm a death toll, but said a case of murder and arson had been lodged.

Mr. Saxena was quoted as saying that a senior police officer would investigate the incident, which followed the capture of a council of 10 top Moslem militants early Monday. Moslem organisations in Kashmir have frequently alleged atrocities by Indian security troopers, thousands of whom have been deployed in the valley to combat the Moslem separatist campaign.

The Kashmir Administration has dismissed most such charges in the past as propaganda. More than 1,040 people have died so far this year in violence related to the Moslem secessionist campaign in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Two 'Militants,' Two Soldiers Killed in Kashmir

BK0908030590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, two militants and two jawans [soldiers] of the security forces were killed in two different incidents, while one militant was arrested in Srinagar yesterday. The two militants belonging to the so-called Khalistan Liberation Force were killed when they tried to sneak into India from across the border in the Chicken Neck area of the Akhnur sector in Jammu region. The two security force personnel were killed when the militants ambushed their vehicle at Nathipura in Srinagar. The security forces also recovered a dump of arms and ammunition in Baramula District.

Iran

Further Reportage, Commentary on Gulf Situation

Tehran Radio Views Oil Prices

NC0808120090 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. Not even a few days after the 87th OPEC session, the oil market was jolted into another upheaval. The latest development had precisely the same effect as the result of the 87th OPEC session had on the oil market. This session, which had been termed a successful one, halted the downward trend of prices and heralded a new period for increase in oil prices. However, while this trend toward an increase was a gradual one, the Iraqi military attack on Kuwait suddenly accelerated it.

The suspension of Kuwaiti petroleum exports reduced daily oil supplies. The embargo on Iraqi oil by the United States, Japan, and the EC, and the suspension of exports have resulted in a possible diminishing of oil supplies in the oil market by more than four million barrels per day. The price of oil, as with all other commodities, follows the law of supply and demand. When supplies decrease, prices naturally rise. Developments in the international oil market in the past few days confirm this fact.

The price of West Texas Intermediate crude has exceeded $28 per barrel at present. The intensified rise in prices has been termed the third shock wave in the oil market. The first shock wave came in 1973 with the Arab oil embargo, and the second was in 1979 after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

In all three shock waves, regardless of what caused them, the supply of oil suddenly plummeted and prices spiraled. Oil is a benchmark for international commodity exchanges, and therefore any fluctuation in the price of oil, especially when it is unexpected and intense, exerts an effect on the political and economic situation of all the countries in the world.

On the international scale, the effect of the fluctuations in the price of oil is direct and tangible. Now, we should assess how to compensate for the reduction of oil supplies on the international market. First of all, the production of oil can be increased by the oil-producing countries. At present, an increase in production is only possible on the part of the OPEC member countries. It appears that there is a difference of opinion in this regard among them. Some of them believe that production should be increased to redeem the Iraqi and Kuwaiti production quotas. In this manner, the swift spiraling of oil prices will be arrested, but it will create problems for the future reentry of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil into the international market.

Another group in OPEC, which includes the Islamic Republic of Iran, is of the opinion that in the present circumstances the quotas should be adhered to, and none of the countries should strive to fill the gap in oil production caused by two countries at war. The adoption of this policy will augment the present positive trend in prices and will give greater equilibrium to the market. Greater stability and balance in the oil market will create more favorable conditions for OPEC.

In addition, the decrease in the oil supply, can be combatted by utilizing the strategic oil reserves of the West, and the floating reserves. The strategic oil reserves, which now exceed 142 million tons, and can provide for the needs of the Western world for 30 days, were established in the middle of the decade of the seventies. Following the 1973 shock wave and the inception of the international energy agency, certain preliminary measures were envisaged to combat any shock waves in the oil market, one of which was to maintain oil reserves.

Of course, how much a reduction in oil supplies can be compensated for by resorting to reserves is limited by the quantity taken from the reserves, as well by the length of time for which the reserves are used. Therefore, to compensate for a reduction in supply in this manner may retard the pace of price rises in the short term, but will be ineffective in the long term in stemming the price increases. By boosting demand in the market, it will contribute to fostering the spiraling of prices.

In any case, the International Energy Agency is to convene a session in Paris to assess ways and means to counteract the latest shock wave in the oil market. The present circumstances in the oil market are favorable for OPEC. But since it is not possible to predict the duration of the crisis of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, therefore it is also difficult to forecast any future fluctuation in the oil market.

Undoubtedly, a proliferation of Iraqi military operations and their spread to the littoral states in the Southern Persian Gulf will culminate in a greater catapulting of prices with fresh intensity.

In such conditions, the OPEC members must be more sensitive and act with precision. A rise in oil prices has a direct impact on the world economy and can, in the long term, bring about structural changes in the oil market. Rising oil prices can, in addition to swiftly increasing the oil incomes of the oil-producing countries, increase international inflation and interest rates. Along with all the above, oil prices can cause international currency rates to fluctuate far more than is normal in view of world inflation.

The 87th OPEC session, which set out to fix the price of oil at $21 per barrel, was an attempt to bridge this gap. Therefore, any rise in the oil price can be considered a step in this direction. However, the negative effects of this step on the oil-producing countries can only show up with the passage of time, since this increase was a calculated one and was taken after considering all the conditions prevailing in the international oil market.

Scenarios of U.S. Forces Examined

LD0808141390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1103 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Iraq's insistence to continue with the occupation of Kuwait has strengthened the likelihood of military intervention in the Persian Gulf. Saddam Husayn yesterday in a speech declared that the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq has ended the disintegration of the Arab world, and he implicitly referred to the annexation of Kuwait by Iraq. In response, U.S. President George Bush last night ordered 4,000 troops to be deployed from the airborne forces of the U.S. Armed Forces in eastern Arabia. This force is part of a multinational force for the purposes of safeguarding Arabia in the face of Iraqi threats, but up to now it is not clear which countries will embark on dispatching their forces alongside those of America. [passage omitted]

Bearing in mind that the resolution of the Security Council does not necessitate a military option, the question that arises is: If punitive economic measures against Iraq are not effective, what will happen?

Some political circles believe that by dispatching a force, the United States has strengthened the likelihood of military intervention in the region. It should be said with regard to this that in the event of America deciding to intervene, it will organize a force from NATO-member countries and pro-Western countries in the region. Also, the United States does not want coordination within the framework of the Security Council from the military standpoint, because it does not necessarily want the Soviet Union or China, or even some countries of the Third World, to interfere in this matter.

The dispatch of the U.S. forces to the region can be examined under several scenarios. First, the United States does not trust Iraqi assurances that it will not attack Saudi Arabia, and in this respect, by dispatching a limited force, it is trying to mobilize the Armed Forces of Arabia and the facilities of that country to defend the oil installations in the face of any potential threat, and to wait for the impact of economic sanctions against Iraq to be felt.

Second, by dispatching a number of its advanced F-111 and B-52 aircraft, which were used in the aggression against Libya, the United States is trying to deliver a blow to Iraq's vital installations; and the dispatch of this force is within the framework of protecting the oil installations of Arabia in the face of a potential revenge-seeking attack by Iraq.

Third, should the United States embark on a land-air-naval attack aimed at returning Kuwait to its status-quo ante, this move necessitates the dispatch of more forces to the region.

Whether or not these potential scenarios are true, in order to implement any of these plans, the United States needs an air bridge between America and its bases in Western Europe and in the operational regions in order to secure the logistic requirements of its forces, and this is only possible through coordination with some of the countries in the region.

The U.S. defense minister, after visiting Arabia, also visited Egypt and the Maghreb so as to obtain these countries' agreements for receiving military resources. Political circles believe that Iraq's action in occupying

Kuwait and insisting on not withdrawing from that country has prepared the basis for foreign military intervention in the internal affairs of the region, contrary to the interests of the people of this region. Saddam's action and the crisis it has unleashed are such that in the opinion of Western specialists, at the moment, the West is not facing many political difficulties or the opposition of public opinion for its military intervention; and present discussions are merely centered on how a military intervention in the affairs of the region will be carried out.

Aqazadeh Opposes OPEC Price Hikes

LD0808130790 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 8, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh Wednesday renewed his call on OPEC member countries for self-control vis-a-vis the current situation of the world oil market.

Contacted by IRNA, Aqazadeh reiterated that OPEC member states should be committed to the text of the communique issued at the "Geneva 87" conference. He brushed aside a report carried by the British news agency 'REUTER' quoting the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) on Iran's alleged announcement that it had agreed to raise the oil output. Giving the facts he said "By no means do we approve the REUTER report quoting the BBC."

As a matter of fact, stressed the oil minister, that as he noted in his Monday press conference there was no need for such an increase under the status quo. He added that the issue had been dealt with in a letter sent to all OPEC members.

Aqazadeh said, "Presently enough oil has been stocked at both off-shore and on-shore reservoirs," and that oil shortage would not cause a hike in prices but rather current regional issues had entailed price fluctuations in the international market.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that all (OPEC) member states should abide by their quotas more than ever before and should take market developments into careful consideration," he said. He noted that other OPEC countries held the same view and under the present condition they all believed that they should adhere to the Geneva 87 accord.

The Iranian oil minister once again asked OPEC member states to exercise self-control. If ever a shortage was felt in the international market, said Aqazadeh OPEC states could take the necessary decisions. He reiterated that no increase in production was approved by Iran.

Kuwait Seen as U.S. 'Bait'

LD0808170490 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—In a commentary on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait commentator of the Persian daily ETTELA'AT A. Marvi said today that Washington stands to benefit from the current developments in the Persian Gulf.

"Kuwait," said the commentary, "is a fish bait that the U.S. is holding out on a hook to scratch the jaw of Saddam Husayn and Iraq, and at the same time retard the tempo of unification of a Western Europe which for a long time in the future will need the Persian Gulf oil."

It said also that the U.S. watching of the invasion of Kuwait by Saddam Husayn with a cool head is proof that geographically in the Persian Gulf Washington has pulled its redline border a little further back from the countries of the region, and that NATO has devised a new defence strategy.

The daily's commentator said: "It can be said with any degree of certainty that as long as there is no threat against the U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia Washington will definitely refuse to engage in any direct retaliation against Iraq."

"The fact," said the commentary, "is evidence that parts of the Persian Gulf is faced with a vacuum of international balance of power. The only way to meet the situation head on would be for the regional countries to establish closer cooperation with the context of a new security framework."

"Iraq's invasion of Kuwait," continued the commentary, "will certainly in the long run shatter the political and military fabric of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, and will lead to a new process towards new mutual regional treaties...."

Comments on Cheney Visit

NC0808192890 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Western observers have said that purpose of the U.S. defense secretary's visit to the region, on which he was accompanied by a number of senior U.S. military officers, was to discuss ways to confront the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait with Saudi officials. According to Western mass media, the basic goal of this visit is to persuade the Saudi king to use his armed forces to check the Iraqi troops' attack. In this context, due to Saudi weakness and vulnerability to a retaliatory, rapid military attack on the part of Iraq, the Kingdom hesitates to adopt a strict stand on the Iraqi attack against Kuwait. This puts the responsibility of confronting Iraq on the shoulders of the U.S. Administration.

On the other hand, the Americans are seeking to hide the fact that, for several reasons, they do not want to get involved in a crisis with unpredictable consequences. Pentagon officials have stated that, contrary to its open threats to Iraq, America does not have the necessary military ability to end this crisis in the Persian Gulf. For this reason, it is making the utmost efforts to drag the countries of the region into a military confrontation with Iraq.

Though the majority of the countries that are linked to Iraq by commercial and economic ties have announced their willingness to boycott Iraq in a comprehensive manner, America is still concerned over the possibility that this boycott may not succeed because Iraq, which owns one-fifth of OPEC's oil resources, will continue along its current political line. This constitutes a threat to the West and forces it to give political privileges to Iraq.

In view of all this, America believes that establishing a military front along the Saudi-Iraqi borders and launching constant and intensive military operations against Iraq is bound to prevent the emergence of a new military power in the region.

On the other hand, it is certain that, compared to Iraq, the Gulf littoral states do not have the necessary military power. Moreover, these states do not enjoy the necessary political stability because they are run as dictatorships. This makes them open to unexpected internal political problems if they try to engage in a regional war.

Though the Arab states are going through a very difficult situation, America, their biggest protector, is also going through a difficult test of its credibility, which contradicts what it had always claimed; namely, that the smooth and continuous flow of oil from the Persian Gulf to industrial countries depends on its political and military presence in the region.

Press Views Invasion, UN Role

LD0908083490 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—The two English language dailies Thursday editorialized on Iraqi invasion of Kuwait with KEYHAN INTERNATIONAL warning against possible Iraq exertion of pressure on Iran in the peace talks and TEHRAN TIMES calling on the U.N. to respond to the Iraqi aggression.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' welcomed the United Nations strong reaction but believed it "Should have acted as strongly for protecting weak countries against the mighty aggressor states as they did this week." It was referring to the U.S. invasion of Grenada and Panama, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

Underlining Baghdad's desire for militarism, it warned, "If Saddam Husayn fails to impose his expansionist demands on President Hashemi-Rafsanjani during their as yet unscheduled future meeting, he will perhaps resort to another war against Iran in order to exert pressure to Tehran."

The daily said, "Until that day comes, Iran must be militarily prepared and ready," and "While observing tolerance, must further develop its defense capabilities and increase its military might and manpower."

It believed that Israel is perhaps the happiest of all states in the world over the recent crisis, because most probably a joint force of Egyptian and Saudi troops will inflict heavy damages upon vital Iraqi economic and military installations.

Meanwhile, the other English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' terming the world reaction on Iraq's aggression as "acceptable", believed that cooperation among the regional countries backed by a powerful response is required. However, it regretted that such a thing is not possible due to internal differences among the regional countries.

"Under such circumstances this drastic action should necessarily come from the United Nations," it said adding "any force that takes the responsibility for thwarting the Iraqi aggression should be under full supervision of the United Nations.

The daily, however stressed, "After the end of the crisis such a force should leave the region and leave the responsibility of peace and security of the region to the regional countries."

Paper Analyzes Kuwaiti Annexation

LD0908094990 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—A morning daily Thursday pointed to the Wednesday annexation of Kuwait to Iraq and noted that if aggression against territorial integrity and national sovereignty of nations did not meet international condemnation, no country would be immune. In its weekly political analysis, 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' regretted failure of the world body in the past 10 years to hear the cry of the Islamic Republic of Iran in condemnation of expansionist tendencies.

The contemporary world, witnessing attempts to wipe out Kuwait from the world geopolitical map, has to pay dearly for its silence, the article wrote. It further added that al-Sabah clan whose 40-year old rule in Kuwait came to an end within few hours, was the biggest contributor to the Iraqi war machine during its imposed war on Iran. Kuwait, the article stressed, supported Iraqi aggression more than any other Arab state never thinking of such a reward for its backing.

In another commentary on the same subject, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI reiterated, "the fact that Saddam allows himself to annex another country to its territory is a sign of the prevailing state of anarchy in the contemporary world." The question is not whether the name of Kuwait will disapear from the world map, but rather "a dictator allows himself to formally declare annexation of an independent state to its realism," it said. [sentence as received]

It also noted that the U.S. had so far not adopted a clear-cut stand on the annexation other than announcing that it was bound to intervene in case of a possible Iraqi aggression on Saudi Arabia. The U.S. attitude, the article said, was a tacit approval of the Iraqi invasion or at least acceptance of the invasion as a tolerable act. Obviously,

the daily addded, the U.S. would try within a tolerable limit to maintain its patience towards Saddam's acts of impudence and blackmail in the region, but at the same time would use him as a scarecrow to fight the growing Islamic movement in the region.

The daily wrote that indications are of continued controlled economic, political and propaganda pressures against Saddam, but what is important is aim of these pressures.

Apparently the situation would not be so much to the disadvantage of Saddam. With that being the case, the article concluded, regional regimes and shaykhs of the southern Persian Gulf in particular, must seriously contemplate their future.

Paper Backs Foreign Moves Under UN

NC0908102090 Paris AFP in English 1018 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug 9 (AFP)—A leading Iranian newspaper close to government of President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Thursday backed foreign military intervention in the Gulf crisis, provided it is overseen by the United Nations.

"The U.N., as the most important defender of international rights, has the greatest right to respond to this open aggression of the Iraqi regime," said the English-language TEHRAN TIMES. "Such an action will also teach a lesson to aggressors not to violate the rights of other nations in the future," the paper said.

Iran has joined the chorus of international voices denouncing Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and initially expressed opposition to foreign intervention. But with the failure to date of Arab initiatives to resolve the crisis, Iran appears to have revised its position, notably as any consolidation of Iraqi power in Kuwait would be totally unacceptable to Tehran.

Iran and Iraq fought a bitter, bloody border war that ended in a cease-fire two years ago.

The TEHRAN TIMES said that after last Thursday's [2 August] invasion, "the most logical thing would have been cooperation among the regional countries for ending the crisis. But such a regional cooperation would have required a powerful response to Iraq, which is unfortunately not possible due to internal differences among the regional countries."

Under such circumstances, it added, "any force that takes the responsibility for thwarting the Iraqi aggression should be under the full supervision of the United Nations."

U.S. ground forces have begun arriving in Saudi Arabia, which the United States says is now threatened by attack from Iraqi troops in neighboring Kuwait, and warships from several Western nations are moving toward the Gulf.

The United Nations Security Council has condemned the invasion and demanded an Iraqi withdrawal but has not approved the deployment of a U.N. force in the region.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Annexation

LD0908115890 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 9, IRNA—The Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement here Thursday [9 August] once again called for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. It stressed that such a measure will only be to the advantage of the oppresor powers and the Zionist regime.

"Illegal annexation of Kuwait to Iraq, has made the Persian Gulf region, the Middle East and the Islamic world face an increasing crisis, making the future prospects for this sensitive part of the world more ambiguous."

Totally rejecting Iraq's baseless action, taken place in violation of all international principles and regulations, the Foreign Ministry said: "The situation must come to an end as soon as possible." Stressing that the move is a flagrant violation of indisputable rights of the nations for self-determination, the statement said that Iran as the major power of the Persian Gulf region will tolerate no alteration in political geography of the region.

Pakistan Envoy Stresses 'No Changes' in Relations

LD0808171590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The Pakistani ambassador in Tehran today met with Mr. Besharati, our country's deputy minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting he discussed the recent developments in Pakistan and stressed that no changes have been made in Pakistan's foreign policy and that its friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue. Regional and international issues were also discussed. The meeting was convened at the request of the Pakistani ambassador.

Paper on Confession of 'Snob Nationalists'

LD0808170390 Tehran IRNA in English 1117 GMT 8 Aug 90

["JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI: Behbahani Reveals True Nature of Pro-U.S. Group"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 8, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday wrote that confessions of a former member of the so-called 'Society for Defending Freedom and Sovereignty of the Iranian Nation' is a warning for those who have been deceived by misleading propaganda.

Farhad Behbahani in a televised confession here Monday night [6 August] disclosed that the society's members were ideologically fed by the U.S. and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, CIA. Members of the society, the editorial noted, under the directives of the

U.S. were hoping in vain that current world developments would affect Iran and pave the way for the annihilation of the Islamic Republic. On the one hand they were trying to encourage the counter-revolutionaries to embark on actions against the Islamic Republic and on the other hand were intending to terrorize, disappoint and disillusion the revolutionary forces, the daily added.

"Self-confessions of the demanding snob nationalists are of a prominent importance in the history of the Islamic Revolution and is opening a new page of realities before our vigilant and revolutionary people," said the article.

Now the nationalists are unveiled and their true nature has been revealed to all even to those who were highly optimistic about the group, said the daily. It urged continuation of such measures in order to further reveal treasons of such puppet elements especially their ring leaders, the pretentious religious ones.

Pakistan

New Prime Minister Outlines Government's Policy

Gives First News Conference 8 Aug

BK0808170490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that he is committed to the true principles of democracy and justice and will continue to implement these principles. He was addressing a crowded news conference, his first after taking office, in Islamabad this evening. He stressed that his foremost constitutional obligation will be to conduct the elections as scheduled in a free, fair, and impartial manner. At the same time, he said his government is also initiating a process of accountability to deal with past misdeeds, as it would be unjust to let the people who robbed the country's economy and wealth go free. The prime minister said that apart from continuing the process of democracy, his government will also concentrate on rooting out the curse of corruption, maintaining law and order, and ending disruption and chaos. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the process of accountability will be started with immediate effect. He said that there will be no victimization, saying that accountability is a legal process and will be carried out in accordance with the law of the country.

On foreign travel restrictions imposed on various people, the prime minister said that the government has started examining cases of people who have been discussed quite a bit during the past few weeks. I have issued instructions to accelerate the process without creating unnecessary problems. However, some persons have already left the country.

In reply to a question, he expressed the hope that the provincial governments will also start the process of accountability. The bureaucrats who helped in the corruption will also be dealt with.

Answering a question, the prime minister said that Cabinet discussed the issue of elections today, and that the Election Commission has been asked to make preparations for the elections. He said that he and members of his government have come forward to provide an effective and honest leadership, accountable to the people. We enjoy the support of the people and are committed to fulfilling their aspirations, the prime minister said. He said that their political alliance is ready for general elections. We believe that the people will reject those who kept the nation under hardship for 20 months.

In reply to a question, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that he will spare no efforts to restore law and order in the country. I will do whatever is necessary for the protection and security of the people in Sindh. He said that he will undertake a visit to Karachi and the interior of Sindh at his earliest convenience and will meet and exchange views with the people. I will convince them that we have to live in an atmosphere of brotherhood and friendship, the prime minister said.

On the proclamation of the state of emergency in the country, the prime minister said that it has been implemented in the interests of the country and the nation. However, he clarified that fundamental rights have not been suspended. When the state of emergency is no longer necessary, it will be lifted.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that his government will not dismiss from service any deserving person who was given a job by the former government. However, cases of nepotism and violation of regulations will be investigated and appropriate steps will be taken.

Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said that the nation has welcomed the president's action. This long-awaited action has upheld the Constitution. He said that the nation has now rid itself of the state of perpetual crisis, rampant corruption, and a complete breakdown of law and order, which necessitated this action under the Constitution. He said that he has accepted the position of the prime minister in accordance with parliamentary practices. The prime minister added that his government is democratic and constitutional. He said that his government is broad-based and that he is considering further broadening its base. He said that the country should have a clean administration, the integrity of which should be beyond question.

Replying to a question on Kashmir, the prime minister said that the uprising in the occupied territory has amply proven that there will be no genuine peace without a solution to the Kashmir problem. Pakistan has always expressed a desire to establish normal good-neighborly relations with India. The secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan have already begun, and the Pakistani foreign secretary will depart tomorrow for New Delhi for the second round of talks.

On Afghanistan, Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was critical of the erroneous policies of the previous government, and emphasized that the new government will support a political

solution in keeping with the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan. He supported a consensus government for which the Afghan interim government is working.

Supports Islamic Law

BK0908044390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Prime Minister Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi has said that the nation's commitment to the supremacy of Islamic law and its implementation is the guiding principle for all policies and he will not shirk his duty in this respect. He was talking to a delegation of prominent religious scholars in Islamabad yesterday. The delegation members said that the president's decision to dismiss the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] government is in the national interest because the PPP leadership was creating obstacles in the path of implementing sharia [Islamic law]. They expressed the hope that the caretaker government will make progress in implementing sharia.

Those who met the prime minister were Maulana Abdus Sattar Khan Niazi, Engineer Mohammad Salimullah Khan, Senator Maulana Samiul Haq, Senator Kazi Latif, Mr. Mohammad Hanif Taiyab, Sahabzada Haji Fazal Karim, Pir Sayed Mohammad Yaqub Shah, Raja Zafarul Haq, Maulana Zahidur Rashid, Hafiz Hussain Ahmad, and Maulana Hasinuddin Shah.

In an informal chat with journalists after addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, the prime minister gave assurances that the government will take urgent steps to check the rise in prices of essential commodities. He said the basic reason behind the rising prices is the erroneous policies of the former government. The prime minister added that the government will also take steps to check hoarding and profiteering.

The prime minister had a meeting with Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad in Islamabad last evening and discussed matters of national importance. Mr. Wasim Sajjad assured Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi of the total cooperation of the upper house in connection with carrying out national obligations. The prime minister commended the statesmanship of the Senate chairman in performing the day-to-day business of the Senate. He said the Senate must play a pivotal role in the continuation of the political process in the country.

President Orders Immediate Election Preparations

BK0808150890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has directed the chief election commissioner to start preparations immediately for general elections, scheduled to be held on 24 October. The president was talking to Chief Election Commissioner Justice Moinuddin, who called on the president in Islamabad today. The president directed the commissioner to activate his organization in order to effectively and successfully conduct the elections. The president emphasized that all arrangements should be made for conducting the elections in a peaceful atmosphere and in a free, fair, and impartial manner, as he announced in his address to the nation. The chief election commissioner apprised the president of his organization's preparations and assured him that necessary arrangements throughout the country will be completed on time.

Federal Cabinet Briefed

BK0808151690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] A federal Cabinet meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi was held in Islamabad today. The Cabinet was briefed on various issues, including the economic, national, and international situations. The meeting also discussed arrangements for elections, and decided to begin preparations for the elections. The Cabinet approved the law relating to the establishment of a standardization institution to ensure quality control of products. The meeting was attended by all federal ministers.

Army Reportedly Occupies Government Offices

BK0908044290 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Aug 90 pp 1, 6

[Staff Report]

[Text] Islambad, Aug 7—Pakistan army troops which entered the federal capital Monday noon, are still occupying some of the government offices, including the Federal Investigation Agency [FIA] and the Intelligence Bureau [IB].

Troops with loaded guns and in "battle dress" were seen patrolling in and outside the FIA headquarter located at the Peshawar Moar.

The offices occupied by troops have been virtually declared "prohibited area", for the civilian staff working in the Departments.

Sources say that all official files are being thoroughly scrutinised. At least, they say, 6 army officers with the rank of major are going through the files, particularly those related to investigations against the opposition leaders.

The office of the Director (Headquarter), Rehman Malik, was opened up Tuesday morning.

Reports say the former government assigned the officer to prepare a report against Ijazul Haq and Anwarul Haq, sons of the late president Zia.

The army trucks loaded with some sensitive files reportedly carried away the files and the material from the building. The destination of these army carriers were not immediately known.

Same was the case with the Intelligence Bureau where army officers were busy to carry out the orders of their bosses, going through the files and removing "what is important".

Meanwhile rumours were ripe that chiefs of both the departments, FIA and IB, have been detained by the armed forces.

Punjab Caretaker Minister Visits Ishaq Khan

BK0808152090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Ghulam Haider Wyne, the caretaker chief minister of Punjab, called on the president in Islamabad today. He exchanged views with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on the holding of elections and on conducting them in a fair and impartial manner. Wyne also apprised the president of the general situation in Punjab.

Officials Discuss Restoration of Peace in Sindh

BK0808162890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] The Sindh governor, Mr. Mahmud Harun, has stressed the need for unity among various sections of people for restoration of a peaceful atmosphere in the province. He was speaking at a news conference addressed jointly by him and the acting chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali, in Karachi this evening. Jam Sadiq Ali said he would talk to every community, group, and party to eliminate growing hatred between different sections of the population.

Further on Bhutto Reaction to Dismissal

Says Army To Blame

BK0808132090 London BBC World Service in English 1200 GMT 8 Aug 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] The new prime minister of Pakistan, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, was due to give his first news conference about now since he was appointed to replace Ms. Benazir Bhutto as the head of an interim government. Earlier, Ms. Bhutto herself addressed reporters, accusing the Army and military intelligence of orchestrating her dismissal from office on Monday. From Islamabad, Razia Iqbal reports:

[Begin recording] In Karachi, Ms. Benazir Bhutto has launched a bitter attack on the Army's role in her dismissal. She accused the Army and the military intelligence of being behind President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's decision to oust her from office and dissolve the National Assembly. In her view, the president's hand was (?forced). Ms. Bhutto acknowledged that her policies both internally and on Afghanistan and Kashmir were unpopular with the Army. However, as far as she was concerned she had established at least a working relationship with the chief of Army Staff, General Aslam Beg. Nevertheless, it has to be remembered that it was the Army who hanged her father, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, in 1979. And it was with the Army that she faced her most contentious domestic issues, namely over her refusal to endorse extra military powers to deal with the ethnic violence in Sindh Province. Ms. Bhutto expressed her fears of direct military rule being imposed within weeks. She appealed to the international community to exert pressure on the president to restore democracy in Pakistan, adding that when civil liberty is contravened it is a matter for the international community. [end recording]

Addresses Press Conference

BK0908012390 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Aug 90 pp 1, 6

[By Mujtaba Akhter]

[Text] Islamabad, August 7—Ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today said, the way she and her cabinet colleagues were removed from their office has convinced her that there would be no fresh elections on Oct 24.

She in support of her contention cited some instances saying the newly formed interim government is composed of those having reputation of entering the corridors of power through back doors.

Addressing a press conference at the Prime Minister House, she vacated this afternoon, she expressed the fear that certain elements would not allow democracy to flourish, for they had their own axe to grind which was possible only in an undemocratic system.

It would not be fair to doubt President Ishaq's or anyone else's intentions but the sad fact is that the interim government would not be able to fulfil the task of holding elections within the given time, she aid.

Asked if she repents her decision of voting President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to power, the ex-Prime Minister said she would be the last to think so for what she did was purely in the interest of nation. Ms. Bhutto who looked slightly perturbed didn't make any harsh comment on the action taken by the President Ishaq, despite the fact that most of the questions by pressmen were about her removal.

When asked how long her stay would be in Karachi, the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader said she had her home in Karachi and how long her stay in her permanent home would be was difficult to say at this moment. However, if there were elections her party would sweep them, she said confidently.

Attired in red and green shalwar kameez, she showed no sign of hatred or confusion against anyone.

To a question she said it is painful that those who are being inducted in the interim government have been already rejected by people more than once.

The government, she said, has chosen very irrational way to bring them to power by dissolving the democratic institutions. Her Government she said was accused of "promoting corruption" and "horse trading" but she maintained that it was IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] which gave birth to such ugly tactics. "When Akber Lasi or Rai Shabbir favoured PPP, it is horse trading, but when Jam Sadiq Ali and Mustafa Khar joined interim government they just shut their eyes" she remarked.

"Is this not horse trading? She enquired from the President Ishaq Khan without naming him.

She shrugged off the claims that her government has failed to deliver the goods. "It hurts me to be accused of letting down the President, but the fact is, he had given a great favour to IJI by dissolving the assembly".

To a question she said she did not have the cleanest democratic broom to sweep away the bitterness that many years of the military rule have accumulated.

To another serious allegation against her government about giving 26 thousand jobs to job seekers she said, she was proud of her action, as giving jobs to unemployed youth is not corruption, she said.

Earlier moving scenes were witnessed as she along with her family members vacated the Prime Minister house.

Amidst emotional slogans she was driven to the airport. PPP women workers with misty eyes started wailing as her car streaked past them.

A pretty large number of PPP workers from Pindi and other parts of the country turned up in the PM [Prime Minister] house early this morning.

Most of them squatted outside the gate in hope to catch her last glimpse before her departure for Karachi.

Ex-PPP ministers and advisors with grim faces were seen moving from one end to the other in PM House.

They didn't comment on the situation saying "what is done is done".

The ex-prime minister later this evening through a special plane was flown to Karachi. Two trucks were hired to transport her personal luggage and other belongings to airport.

Arrives in Karachi, Addresses PPP

BK0908051190 Karachi DAWN in English
8 Aug 90 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Aug 7—Deposed Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Tuesday told her highly resentful PPP [Pakistan People's Party] cadre that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had imposed "rejected elements" on the nation "through backdoor."

At the end of her tumultuous welcome from the airport to Bilawal House, PPP Co-Chairman Ms. Bhutto declared on Tuesday [7 August]: "This is an insult to the people" while pointing to the President's dissolution of the Assemblies, installing Jatoi-led caretaker Government at the Centre and declaring emergency in the country.

Ms. Bhutto flatly rejected the charge-sheet levelled on her and her sacked Government by President Ishaq and said "I am from my people and I am sure my people will sustain me".

She appealed to the PPP cadre and that of the PPP affiliated bodies to remain calm and disciplined, no matter what the provocations may be.

"We have not done injustice to anyone, nor committed excess against anybody. We have, with all the patience in the world, tried to serve the people, but President Ishaq has taken resort to unconstitutional and undemocratic methods and has imposed on us the 'rejected lot'," she maintained.

Laying down a counter charge-sheet, Ms. Bhutto bitterly complained how right from the very start of her 20-month tenure she had consistently been restrained from serving her people. She said all sorts of methods were employed to unseat her Government, but she said she faced every challenge on the strength of the people and through democratic means.

The Opposition, she said, brought in no-confidence motion against her and it failed. The Opposition made an attempt to take the people out on street and it failed. In Sindh the Opposition let loose bad blood and even so it failed.

"All out success is due to the fact that we derive our strength from our people and we have their full backing", Ms. Bhutto said and appealed to the people not to say or act in a manner which gave them (her political adversaries) an excuse to postpone the elections.

"We do want that elections be held as promised, on time because we are confident of success at the poll", she said.

A day after her "summary dismissal" as Prime Minister, PPP Co-Chairman Benazir Bhutto arrived in Karachi on Tuesday evening amidst vociferous slogans of cheer from a sizeable crowd of her party cadre.

Hours before her landing at the civil airport at 8-10 p.m. groups of the PPP, PSF and People's Youth started making their way to the airport in all manners of transport to accord a rousing welcome to the democratically elected former Prime Minister.

A beaming Ms. Bhutto, occupying a closed-door car which reached her at the tarmac, emerged from the side gate to avoid being mobbed and waved cheerfully to enthusiastic workers as her car passed by at the snail's pace.

Persons, peeping inside the car keenly, were heard assuring her at the top of voice: "We are with you, heart and soul. We will see (at the appropriate time) that you return (to power)."

Accompanying her daughter in another car was the PPP Chairman, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, with Ms. Bhutto's son Bilawal in her lap. She was seen sitting erect, her eyes riveted in front and her appearance assuming a tinge of royal poise.

Asif Zardari arrived in haste, rather late, and managed to get into the gate to receive his wife and join in the procession.

A heavy posse of Rangers and police with arms at attention thronged the airport premises at all vantage points. Even though groups of PPP activists—men and women—at times went wild in exuberance and shouted all sorts of slogans—pro-Ms. Bhutto and anti-Jatoi—the Jawans and officers by their stern demeanour displayed their sense of duty required of them in the state of already-declared demergency in the country.

All along the way from the airport to Bilawal House—a distance of 25 kilometers—Ms. Bhutto's motorcade was under full security escort with the Rangers' vehicles dotting at all the vantage points.

Sindh PPP President Syed Qaim Ali Shah and former Chief Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani who along with local chief Rashid Rabbani and their partymen were waiting for Ms Bhutto at the front gate were called in by securitymen and taken to the tarmac to receive her. They accompanied Ms Bhutto in the same car to Bilawal House.

The welcoming crowd at times grew restive and though the workers expected Ms Bhutto to be in their midst and address a few words to them, they nevertheless felt visibly satisfied at having even a passing look at her. A slogan they kept on repeatedly chanting was "Marhaba Inquilab—Marhaba, Marhaba" [Bravo Revolution, Bravo, Bravo].

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Central Executive Committee (CEC) of the Pakistan People's Party will meet here on Aug 10.

Editorial Comments on Emergency Declaration

BK0808010990 Lahore THE NATION in English 8 Aug 90 p 11

[Midweek Section Editorial: "Proclamation of Emergency"]

[Text] As a result of the proclamation of emergency by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Federal Government has been invested with extensive powers under the Constitution. Amongst these powers will be the right to direct a province as to the manner in which its executive authority is to be exercised, the ability to assume to itself or direct the governor to assume all or any of the functions of the government of the province. Probably the most crucial power, which is granted to the President under Emergency, is the power to suspend fundamental rights which include safeguards as to arrest and detention, freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. Even without the express suspension of fundamental rights the state is empowered to make any law or take any executive action which would otherwise be in contravention of certain of these rights.

Given that the President has justified his action in dissolving the National Assembly as being taken to further the democratic cause, it would not be in consonance with this avowed intention should he take recourse to the extreme measures which are available to him. Mr. Jatoi, too, should act with restraint if he is to build his image as an impartial caretaker PM [prime minister]. No doubt there will now be a temptation in Islamabad to adopt sweeping measures in Sindh which may include "preventive detention", and the curtailing of the powers of the higher courts. Should these measures be availed of however, this path should be treaded after due care and caution, as the likely fall-out if such powers are unusual could be a further alienation of native Sindhis.

Editorial Opposes U.S. Military Intervention

BK0908094890 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 9 Aug 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Keep Them Out"]

[Text] Events in the Middle East are assuming the proportions of a far graver crisis than initially anticipated. President Bush has ordered the sending of US troops to Saudi Arabia. Underlying this ominous move is the contention that Iraqi troops are consolidating their positions along Kuwait's southern border with Saudi Arabia. American FB-111 bombers have already arrived in Turkey and two US aircraft carriers are within range to launch war planes into the Gulf. There is absolutely no doubt that Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and the fact that its troops are offensively deployed on the Saudi border merits a strong and urgent response. But whether it calls for foreign military intervention on a grand scale is by no means acceptable. Such a step is liable to have serious and far reaching consequences for the future of the region. There is consensus among the international community on fairly harsh measures against Iraq. Sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council, for instance, include a ban on oil purchases from Iraq and occupied Kuwait as well as the sale or supply of weapons to these countries. An international naval blockade is also deemed very likely unless Iraq starts moving its forces out of Kuwait. Only after recourse to such options fails to stop Iraq, should more extreme alternatives be considered.

The US for sending its forces into Saudi Arabia, would appear to go well beyond the issue of defending the country against Iraqi aggression. It indicates clearly a desire on the part of the US to pre-empt an Arab or regional response to the issue. If instead of supporting such efforts, it chooses to intervene militarily, the purpose can only be to put itself in even firmer control of oil supplies that figure critically in the energy requirements of the industrialised countries. It is not for nothing that the latter have gone along, without much ado, with the

measures proposed against Iraq. They may equally acquiesce in a US strategy for direct military intervention. A more central US role that will surely follow such an action is liable to exacerbate tension among the countries in the region, increase the dependence of the conservative Arab regimes on the United States and greatly bolster Israel's position in the area, seriously undermining the long and arduous Palestinian struggle. Perhaps there is still time for Mr. Saddam to come to his senses. He can, of course, make a fight of it, but isolated as he is, there is little chance that he can win or even hold out for very long. The best thing that the few friends that he has left can do for him, and more importantly for the region as a whole, is to persuade President Saddam to begin an immediate and accelerated withdrawal of his forces from the Kuwait-Saudi border and simultaneously from Kuwait itself—thereby limiting the damage done so far and denying the US the excuse for allotting to itself the role of the region's arbiter and policeman that it so obviously desires.

Sri Lanka

Defense Minister Rejects UN Sanctions on Iraq

BK0908091290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 9 (AFP)—A senior minister here Thursday rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for mandatary sanctions against Iraq, saying Sri Lanka could not afford to forego its tea exports to the Arab state. Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told a weekly press briefing that Colombo would continue selling its tea to Iraq, following the U.N. resolution.

"You want us to stop plucking (tea)?", he asked. Sri Lanka's lush tea plantations bring the island millions of rupees (dollars) in foreign exchange every year. "If the U.N. gives (us) foreign exchange for our tea we will stop selling," Mr. Wijeratne said, "we are a poor country. Sanctions are for the rich." Mr. Wijeratne is also plantations minister and cabinet spokesman.

Iraq is second only to Egypt as a buyer of tea from Sri Lanka, the world's second biggest exporter of the commodity after India. According to Sri Lanka Tea Board officials, Colombo exports 30-35 million kilograms (66-75 million pounds) of tea a year to Iraq, which also supplies oil to the Indian Ocean island.

The U.N. Security Council Monday passed a U.S.-sponsored resolution calling for an economic embargo of Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait a week ago. The binding resolution bans virtually all trade with Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait. Sri Lanka has excellent relations with both Kuwait and Iraq, with almost 100,000 of its workers, mostly housemaids, employed in Kuwait.

In a brief statement here, the Foreign Ministry said it "regretted that the dispute between Iraq and Kuwait could not be settled through discussion and this has resulted in armed conflict." The statement noted an assurance given by Baghdad that Sri Lankans in Kuwait would not be affected by developments there.

Opposition Demands Government Explain Mission

BK0708145390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1237 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—The opposition leader in Sri Lanka's Parliament demanded Tuesday that two ministers who reportedly visited Middle East states for buying arms inform Parliament about their mission. Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, told Parliament that sympathisers of Tamil rebels in London were trying to link Friday's massacre of Moslems in eastern Sri Lanka to the ministerial mission.

She said that in these circumstances Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne and Trade Minister A.R.M. Mansur "should place the facts about their Middle East mission before the house." Mrs. Bandaranaike, a former prime minister, also said that the pro-Israel lobby and other anti-Sri Lankan groups were spreading falsehoods about the mission.

In April, the Sri Lankan Government closed down an Israeli interests section here.

Colombo and almost all political parties have blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the slaughter of more than 100 Moslems in eastern Kathankudy, a charge the Tigers have denied. In a statement issued by its London office and received here Tuesday, the LTTE said the massacre was a "carefully designed and diabolic plan" of the Sri Lankan Government "to get financial and military assistance from the Arab world."

The ministers' foreign visits last week were not officially announced but press reports said they went to purchase arms from Arab states.

Mrs. Bandaranaike said the killing of Moslems was undoubtedly "the work of the LTTE. The Tigers have no respect for temple, mosque or church. Their religion is violence." She also demanded that the government state the true position of the security situation in the sprawling eastern province. "We were assured recently that the eastern province was, more or less, quite secure, under control. Is that really so? What is the correct position?" she asked.

Colombo has said that the east has been "liberated" of the Tigers and that only pockets of resistance remained.

"After Kathankudy, came Akkaraipattu," Mrs. Bandaranaike said, referring to the killing of more than 50 Moslems in that eastern area on Sunday. "The Army cannot be everywhere. Yet these villagers must be given some sort of protection. They cannot be left to the mercy of the Tigers," she said.

The leader of the Sri Lanka Moslem Congress (SLMC), Mohamed Ashraff, said the government should immediately provide arms to the Moslem community in the east to protect themselves from further attacks. He told parliament that the LTTE had killed 538 Moslems in the eastern province since fighting broke out on June 11 between government troops and the guerrillas.

But Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne rejected the SLMC's request saying it would spawn a gun culture in the strife-torn northeast. He said the government would instead enlist Moslem youth into the Army and provide them military training.

Defense Minister Responds on LTTE Issue

Rules Out Ceasefire

BK0708134590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1254 GMT 7 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 7 (AFP)—A senior minister Tuesday ruled out a ceasefire with Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in Sri Lanka's northeast, while another minister said Colombo had not sought military help from other states. "No one should ask for a ceasefire," Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament Tuesday, adding that the government wanted to destroy the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Mr. Wijeratne's comment came as Foreign Minister Harold Herat said Sri Lanka had not sought military assistance from other countries and was confident of tackling the LTTE on its own. "Formally, we have not asked any military help" from other countries, Mr. Herat said, adding, "The government was fully confident of dealing with the LTTE by itself."

Opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike earlier Tuesday demanded that Mr. Wijeratne and Trade Minister A.R.M. Munsoor should inform parliament about a tour of Middle East nations they made last week, reportedly to purchase arms. Meanwhile, Mr. Wijeratne has warned senior army officers in the strife-torn eastern province that they would be held responsible if future massacres are carried out by rebels in the area.

Mr. Wijeratne was responding to accusations by Sri Lanka Moslem Congress leader Mohamed Ashraff that the massacre of Moslem villagers by the Tigers was due to the "prevailing security vacuum in the east." Mr. Ashraff told Parliament on Tuesday that 538 Moslems had died at the hands of the LTTE.

"A situation has arisen where the normal state machinery and the law-enforcing authorities have failed to give satisfactory and adequate protection to the innocent villagers," Mr. Ashraff said. Mrs. Bandaranaike, of the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party, also urged Colombo to provide security to the villagers.

Rejects 'Demilitarized Zone'

BK0908102790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 9 Aug 90

[Text] Colombo, Aug 9 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne Thursday rejected the idea of a de-militarised zone in a war-ravaged northern town, a week after his government announced the proposal. "I am not in any mood to have a demilitarised zone or a ceasefire," Mr. Wijeratne, told reporters in Parliament. "How can you (accept a demilitarised zone), when criminals are killing innocents," Mr. Wijeratne said, referring to the killing of dozens of civilians in the past week by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Colombo proposed that the area in and around the besieged Army camp in Jaffna Fort be declared a demilitarised zone to enable the main Jaffna hospital, nearby, to reopen. The hospital was closed after heavy fighting erupted between government troops holed up inside the garrison and rebels entrenched in bunkers outside since June 11. The Sri Lankan Government had conveyed the proposal through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Mr. Wijeratne admitted that his stance meant that there could be differences in the government. "Why not. We are in a democratic setup," he said. "They (the tigers) will say demilitarised zones and ceasefires with ulterior motives," the minister said, adding "they are cunning cheats, apart from being murderers."

Military officials here believe that a ceasefire would allow the scattered LTTE cadres in the east to regroup and give the rebels time to prepare fresh offensives on Army camps in the north. "No one should ask for a ceasefire," Mr. Wijeratne told Parliament on Tuesday. "We will not capture the LTTE, but destroy them. We will show no mercy." Mr. Wijeratne's remarks came in the wake of a series of civilian killings by the rebels who are fighting government troops to establish an independent Tamil homeland in the northeast.

Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunga, who was also present at the press briefing, said that seven more Sinhalese villagers were killed by the tigers in northern Vavuniya Tuesday night. The dead included four men, 2 women and a child, military officials said, adding the latest killing brought the number massacred by the LTTE in the past week to 211.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman here said that troops shot dead four tigers in northern Paranthan during "clearing up" operations, adding that the rebels had also made sporadic attacks on most Army camps in the north. Mr. Wijeratne also read out Thursday a report by Army intelligence which included excerpts of an intercepted message from the Jaffna-based LTTE leadership to one of its eastern regional leaders Castro. The intelligence document said Castro was "told to kill three times more" of civilians than what has been so far done.

"There is a note of desperation bordering on madness" in the LTTE message, Mr. Wijeratne said. Mr. Wijeratne also admitted that 49 Tamil civilians had been killed in eastern Oluvil by unknown Muslims retaliating for the massacre of more than 100 Muslims in neighbouring Kathankudy last Friday.

Colombo and almost all political parties has charged the LTTE with the Muslim massacre, an allegation the tigers have denied. Mr. Wijeratne said that the LTTE was trying to decimate the majority Sinhalese and minority Muslims "in order to drive them out from villages" in the east. He said that by continuing the onslaught on civilians the tigers were hoping to force Colombo to remove its troops from the northern sector to handle the fresh crisis in the east.

Thousands of troops were moved from the east to the northern province last month after the military ousted the guerrillas out of main towns in the region, although hundreds of other LTTE cadres have dropped back to the jungles to launch a bush war against the troops. More than 2,700 people are reported to have died in the armed conflict which began after the guerrillas renewed their campaign for a separate state in the predominantly Tamil northeast on June 11.

Mr. Wijeratne said that the government would not fall into the tiger's trap to deflect the current military offensive in the north. "We will not deviate from that onslaught (against the LTTE in the north)," Mr. Wijeratne said.

He brushed aside suggestions that the war against the tigers had ground to a stalemate. "It's guerrilla warfare, not a straightforward fight," Mr. Wijeratne said. "We are taking our time. Our forces have been fighting for two months at a stretch. They have to be rested. They have to be revamped." He agreed that the LTTE had "delayed us a little" but said troops would overcome them.

Explains Middle East Visit

BK0908131290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1020 GMT 9 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Sri Lankan Minister of Plantation and Minister of state for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne addressing pressmen at his cabinet news briefing today said as far as he was concerned there was not going to be any de-militarised zone agreement with the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and that until the last LTTE murderer was annihilated the mission against the LTTE will continue.

Talking of his recent visit abroad Mr. Wijeratne said that he had gone first to Iran and held five meetings with President Rafsanjani and important ministers, including finance and defence ministers. They gave sympathetic hearing and were shocked at the killings of Muslims.

Mr. Wijeratne said, he then proceeded to Libya but unfortunately failed to meet the Libyan leader due to the situation in the region. He had however, held talks with his second in command. Mr. Wijeratne said he then proceeded to Cairo. He had not been able to proceed to Iraq as all airports had been closed.

In reply to a question by journalists, he said that his visit to these countries was to brief the leaders of the situation in Sri Lanka and [he] found that those leaders had been closely watching the situation. Asked about whether these countries agreed to supply arms to Sri Lanka, Mr. Wijeratne refused to comment.

Muslims Unite To Face Tamil Tigers Threat

Delegation Tours Rastern

BK0908103490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0842 GMT 9 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—The Muslim leaders from different political groups and other organisations have decided to shed all differences and join together to face the threat to the Muslim community from the brutal LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. A delegation of Muslims, who met President R. Premadasa at the Presidential Secretariat have expressed satisfaction with the security arrangements made for Muslims in the east.

The delegation toured the Rastern Province in the company of Plantation Industries Minister and State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne yesterday. The Muslim leaders have appealed to Muslims all over the country to keep calm and act with wisdom and restraint and not to cause any disturbances. They have told the president that they had shed all differences—political and ideological—and were united to face the threat posed by the Tamil Tigers.

Muslims Recruited to Army

BK0908150290 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1121 GMT 9 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne today offered to send any journalist from Sri Lanka to visit refugee camps in Tamil Nadu to ascertain their problems. Presidential advisor on international relations Bradman Weerakoon, who was associated with Minister of Industries, Science and Technology said that a large refugee camp of eight square miles had been set up in Mannar Island.

Mr. Charita Ratwatte, commissioner general of essential services said that daily three to four ships carrying food and medicine were being sent to stricken areas. He said that there were an estimated 51,000 refugees in Batticaloa.

Referring to the Jaffna Fort and its continued siege by the LTTE, Mr. Wijeratne said that the Sri Lankan troops have started moving out of the fort and had captured arms. Mr. Wijeratne also said that 100 Muslims had been recruited to the Army and had completed their two months training. Another 200 Muslims had also been recruited. This was on the ethnic ratio. Recruitment of Tamils to the police and armed forces also on the ethnic ratio would be resumed once the LTTE problem is solved.

He stressed that the onslaught against the LTTE will continue. He also said that maximum secrecy was being maintained on the operations. He further said that radio intercepts had revealed that the LTTE's eastern province leaders were being pressurised to kill Muslims and Sinhalese. These orders had been given to LTTE cadres under pain of death.

Mr. Wijeratne said that Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi had refused permission to Sri Lankan High Commission officials to visit refugee camps in Tamil Nadu. There was no reason given for the refusal.

Trincomalee Under Curfew After 33 Muslims Killed

BK0708115990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0753 GMT 7 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, August 7 (LANKAPUVATH)—In the Amparai District, terrorists dressed as Muslims killed 33 farmers working in the paddy fields yesterday, security sources told LANKAPUVATH. The security sources further said that a curfew was declared yesterday within the district of Trincomalee to defuse the mounting tension between Muslims and Tamils. Leaders of both communities were spoken to and extra deployment of police and Army personnel were also carried out. Village defence also was strengthened.

In the Jaffna Peninsula, at Karainagar, Kayts and from Jaffna Fort, the security forces shot and killed 21 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists on Monday. The Jaffna Fort, Elephant Pass security forces detachment, Mullaitivu detachment and Kankesanturai security detachments came under mortar fire and machine gun fire. The security sources said that no casualties were reported.

Suspected JVP Leader Killed; Clashes Reported

BK0808093590 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0743 GMT 8 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Security forces shot and killed a suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] leader in Anuradhapura yesterday, security sources told LANKAPUVATH. Security forces recovered a shot gun with cartridges in this operation. Security sources further said that Kankesanturai security forces detachment and naval detachment came under LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] fire. Terrorists fired mortars and small arms. No casualties were reported.

The Elephant Pass security forces detachment and Talaimannar security forces detachment also came under enemy fire on Monday last, the sources said. In Mannar, yesterday security forces secured and cleared the Manthai to Tiruketiswaram area. Terrorists fled the location leaving their bunkers on seeing advancing troops. One soldier sustained injuries due to a locally made anti-personnel mine explosion.

In Paranthan area, security forces foot patrol fired at a group of terrorists moving from Elephant Pass to the 162th mile post. Casualties were not known. Security sources said that action has been taken to prevent any clashes or activities causing inconvenience to the public in the Trincomalee District within the next 48 hours.

Security Forces Kill 33 LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK0808124190 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] Thirty-three LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were reported killed during confrontation with security forces yesterday at Karainagar, (Padamankambe), and Palali. At Karainagar, the confrontation took place between the terrorists and the navy. The STF [Special Task Force] have conducted a surprise raid on a terrorist hideout at (Padamankambe). The security forces successfully repulsed an attack launched by the terrorists from the direction of (Mallidi).

Meanwhile, published American news reports say that the LTTE maintains links with the Medellin cocaine cartel in Colombia.

LTTE Militants Kill 57 Sinhalese Villagers

BK0808162490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Aug 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 57 Sinhalese villagers have been killed in two separate massacres by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants during the last 24 hours. Military officials said in Colombo today that the two incidents took place within a span of 10 hours. Twenty-seven bus passengers, all belonging to the Sinhalese community, were gunned down by the LTTE near (Mahaduwuleva) in central Sri Lanka early this morning. In another incident, militants armed with swords and axes hacked to death at least 30 villagers of (Wandawaduwa) in eastern Amparai District, the officials said.

11 Sinhalese Killed 9 Aug

BK0908145490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1146 GMT 9 Aug 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Aug (LANKAPUVATH)—Eleven Sinhala civilians were killed by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists last night in a remote village called Nawagamuwa in the Vavuniya District, Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne told the post-cabinet news briefing today in Colombo.

Giving the figures of those killed by the LTTE, Mr. Wijeratne said that 204 civilians, 12 servicemen, and three police officers had lost their lives. [time frame not given] He said that 122 LTTE terrorists and two subversives had been killed. He also said that 13 LTTE terrorists and 11 subversives had been arrested.